

NEWS RELEASE

Harcourt Achieve Announces Development Partnership with Brainchild

Handheld and Web-based Test-Prep Products to be Added to Steck-Vaughn Intervention Line

AUSTIN, TX – December 13, 2005 – Harcourt Achieve, publisher of **Steck-Vaughn** supplemental educational materials has agreed to become a strategic development and distribution partner with **Brainchild**, publishers of eLearning and handheld products. The companies expect the agreement to be finalized by the end of December, 2005.

The agreement will grant Harcourt Achieve exclusive U.S. distribution rights to Brainchild's popular *Study Buddy* handheld tutor offering multimedia instruction and *WebAchiever*, a state-specific assessment and e-Learning application. Harcourt Achieve will begin distribution of these products in January, 2006.

With *Study Buddy* and *WebAchiever*, Steck-Vaughn will provide a comprehensive instructional, assessment and reporting solution for showing Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by No Child Left Behind. Educators will be able to target reading and math instruction, get immediate feedback for reteaching, and maximize student performance on high-stakes tests. Working online, teachers can quickly manage, analyze and report student data.

The *Study Buddy* handheld, with state-specific software cartridges, supports extended learning programs and self-paced study. Students build knowledge with standards-based instruction and immediate feedback that explains concepts.

WebAchiever Reading & Math is a subscriber-based Internet solution that provides

convenient Web-based instruction, assessment and state-specific content management and reporting, including a full selection of NCLB reports. *WebAchiever* guides students to higher achievement with pre-tests, multimedia instruction and practice, and self-directed learning plans.

“By joining forces with Brainchild, we will be able to offer schools and districts a full-fledged solution for helping struggling learners succeed on high-stakes achievement tests.” said Harcourt Achieve president and CEO Tim McEwen. “*Study Buddy* and *WebAchiever* are superior multimedia solutions that have been proven successful in helping schools accelerate students and show Adequate Yearly Progress.”

The agreement also will grant Brainchild distribution rights to Steck-Vaughn’s state-specific test-prep book series *Achieve* and *Soaring Scores* to U.S. K-12 schools. Brainchild will begin the deployment of Steck-Vaughn instructional content on their handheld and Web-based platforms.

“Harcourt Achieve’s Steck-Vaughn product line will bring a heritage of superior content and capable distribution to this partnership,” said Jeff Cameron, founder and president of Brainchild. “We are excited to bring Steck-Vaughn’s highly respected content to handhelds and Web-based and to provide educators with solutions that will help them target instruction and improve student performance.”

About Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners’ skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations.

The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge, reading skills, and preparation for standards-based tests, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for core reading and English Language Learner instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match each student’s instructional level. The Saxon imprint offers the nation’s best selling and most thoroughly researched skills-based mathematics program for grades K-12, as well as popular phonics, K-3 spelling,

and early learning programs. For more information, please visit www.HarcourtAchieve.com.

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit www.harcourt.com.

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