

NEWS RELEASE



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For more information contact
Steve Bailey
Harcourt Achieve
(512) 795-3211
steve.bailey@harcourt.com

For immediate release
Charlene Blohm
C. Blohm & Associates, Inc.
(608) 839-9800
charlene@cblohm.com

Summer Studio Wins 2007 Teachers' Choice Award

Steck-Vaughn's Summer Intervention Program Honored by Learning Magazine

AUSTIN, TEXAS (Oct. 23, 2006) – Research shows that the average student loses more than two months of reading and math skills during summer break. But for struggling students who are already performing below grade level, summer vacation has even more serious implications. Steck-Vaughn, an imprint of Harcourt Achieve, has been honored with a 2007 Teachers' Choice Award for its efforts to accelerate student achievement with *Summer Studio*. The six-week summer program provides struggling learners with targeted intervention to help them build the foundational skills necessary to progress to grade level.

Founded in 1994, the Teachers' Choice Awards are presented by *Learning* magazine. As the only awards program exclusively judged by teachers, the Teachers' Choice Awards has grown to become one of the most recognized and prestigious honors in the education industry. More than 70 teacher teams from across the country evaluated products on quality, instructional value, ease of use, and innovation.

"We are thrilled to provide instruction for struggling learners in the summer that will enable them to achieve success in the fall," said Dr. Susan Canizares, Senior Vice President and Publisher for Harcourt Achieve. "*Summer Studio* allows students to start school motivated, ready to build upon the solid foundation in reading and math they've attained over the summer."

Designed specifically for struggling students, *Summer Studio* provides targeted intervention to bridge the gap between school year curriculum and summer school instruction. High-interest materials are used to motivate students and give them the confidence they need to succeed in their school's basal textbook programs. *Summer Studio* includes student activities, collectible reward cards to encourage students to stay on track, home connection projects and weekly assessments to monitor progress and guide instruction.

Summer Studio offers remedial instruction in both reading and math. *Summer Studio Reading* focuses on critical literacy skills. With fun themes and activities, the program engages struggling readers while teaching skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. *Summer Studio Math* encourages students to connect multiple types of mathematics, by building foundational understandings of number sense, meaning of operations, fact fluency and problem solving.

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A comprehensive teacher's guide offers educators an easy-to-use, step-by-step instructional path to help students improve their reading and math skills. Flexible assessment tools allow educators to measure student progress, as well as identify and address student needs with reteach lessons. The same themes and characters are used in each *Summer Studio* program to provide thematic links in both subjects.

Summer Studio Reading and *Summer Studio Math* are designed for students in grades 1-6 who are performing one or more years below grade level. Each *Summer Studio* program provides material for 15 students. For more information about Steck-Vaughn's *Summer Studio*, visit <http://steckvaughn.harcourtachieve.com>.

About Steck-Vaughn

Steck-Vaughn, an imprint of Harcourt Achieve, publishes instructional materials that accelerate learning for struggling primary, secondary and adult education students. Offering a wide range of skills building and targeted intervention programs, the Steck-Vaughn imprint provides educators with easy-to-use material that improves content-area knowledge, reading skills and preparation for standards-based tests. For more information, visit <http://steckvaughn.harcourtachieve.com>.

About Harcourt Achieve

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively changes the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Steck-Vaughn, Saxon and Rigby imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learner's skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. For more information, visit <http://www.harcourtachieve.com>.

Harcourt Education is a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies include Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve (including the Rigby, Steck-Vaughn, and Saxon imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann; and Harcourt Education International. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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