



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIVE *MICROSOCIETY*[®] MAGNET SCHOOLS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONOR

PHILADELPHIA, PA – December 1, 2009 —Recognized a 2009-2010 *MicroSociety*[®] Magnet School Showcase Sites, five top magnet schools will also play an instrumental role in the *MicroSociety* movement on a national scale by serving as exemplary models for the popular magnet theme. These schools have demonstrated exceptional ability to reduce minority group isolation and offer an additional high-quality public school option for families in their districts.

The five sites are: **Alexander Elementary School** (Jackson-Madison County School District) **Conestoga Elementary School** (Omaha Public Schools), **Maximo MicroSociety[®] and Visual Arts Elementary School** (Pinella County Schools), **Noah Webster MicroSociety[®] Magnet School** (Hartford Public Schools), and **Thoreau Demonstration Academy** (Tulsa Public Schools).

With a new Magnet Schools Assistance Program federal grant competition being announced this fall, prospective districts considering using the *MicroSociety* theme in their magnet and theme-based schools are encouraged to visit these schools and ask questions of students and staff. “Students lie at the center of the *MicroSociety* community – as learners and as teachers. When provided an authentic context in which to connect real life to learning, and one subject content to another, meeting and exceeding standards through application is just the beginning,” commentsCarolynn King Richmond, President and CEO of MICRO SOCIETY.

The five showcase sites are also being recognized for successfully using *MicroSociety* best practices and instructional strategies. “These schools are a testament to the importance of delivering a high level of theme implementation. Many have been with us for over 6 years, after the federal grant period ended, and have demonstrated ability to sustain quality through changes in administration and educational landscape,” adds Richmond.

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About MICRO SOCIETY - MICRO SOCIETY believes that children learn best by doing. Its mission is to create learning environments that motivate students to learn by engaging them in the connections between the classroom and real life. For more than 15 years, the non-profit organization has provided the professional development, curriculum, and teacher training needed to implement this innovative hands-on, experiential learning design in elementary and middle schools. Its nationally-recognized model is supported by 30 years of programmatic research, refinement, and implementation in hundreds of schools and after school programs across the nation.

In just the past 10 years, MICRO SOCIETY has helped over 30 districts create unique, award-winning magnet and theme-based schools. Unique in its programmatic breadth and depth, MICRO SOCIETY'S model extends far beyond basic economics education activities, a simulation, or a token economy. It educates the whole child by improving academic achievement while addressing critical issues of self-esteem, personal responsibility, social engagement, and 21st century skills development.

To learn more about MICRO SOCIETY and its programs and services, visit www.microsociety.org.

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