

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2003

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Partnership for 21st Century Skills Engages Education Leaders; Announces Advisory Committee

Washington -- The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, an organization created to define and incorporate into learning the skills necessary for every student's success in tomorrow's workplace, announced today the creation of its Education Advisory Committee. The Committee's formation is part of the Partnership's continuing efforts to engage stakeholders in a national dialogue on the importance of 21st Century Skills.

The Partnership's Education Advisory Committee is made up of individuals with expertise and experience in education, education technology, workforce, and literacy issues. A complete list is attached. The Committee brings together stakeholders to determine how to define and assess 21st Century Skills, as well as to make recommendations on Partnership activities and tools for the integration of 21st Century Skills into curriculum.

While there is broad consensus that students need new skills to be successful in the future and *No Child Left Behind* requires that every student be "technologically literate" by the eighth grade, no clear consensus on a definition of 21st Century Skills or technology literacy exists to guide educators. In addition, schools need help integrating these skills into the curriculum and measuring success. The Partnership will work with educators, businesses, and local leaders to create an overall vision of how to best incorporate these skills into K-12 education and will provide tools to that end.

"The knowledge and insight of these thought leaders is very important to the Partnership's goal of defining and assessing 21st Century Skills in a way that works at all levels – local, state and federal," said Ken Kay, president of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. "They will play a critical role as we engage the many stakeholders in this challenging debate."

Members of the Education Advisory Committee, along with other educators from around the country, recently participated in the Partnership's first annual National Forum on 21st Century Skills in Tucson, Arizona. The event brought together more than 80 leaders from around the country to identify a framework for 21st Century Skills and to reach consensus on common definitions and terms. It was the first in a series of events the Partnership will hold to engage leaders in developing consensus on the skills that students need to succeed in the 21st century and how these skills can be integrated with basic skills in curriculum.

The Partnership will use the information gleaned from the Tucson session and the insight of the Education Advisory Committee to produce its first deliverables, a groundbreaking 21st Century Skills Readiness Guide and Report. These materials, to be released by the Partnership at the NECC in Seattle on June 30th and free to the public, will be uniquely designed for use by states, districts, and schools. The 21st Century Skills Readiness Guide will allow leaders to measure their own progress in defining, teaching and assessing 21st Century Skills.

Formed last year, the Partnership is a public-private organization. Its members are the AOL Time Warner Foundation, Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco Systems, Dell, Microsoft, the National Education Association (NEA), and SAP. Its work is supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the Partnership works closely with special advisors John Bailey and Doug Simon of the Department. More information can be found at www.21stcenturyskills.org.

**Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Education Advisory Committee**

Art Sheekey, Director	Appalachian Technology in Education Consortium/CNA Corporation
Holly M. Carter, President	Community Technology Development, Inc.
Margaret Honey, Vice President and Director	EDC Center for Children and Technology
Don Knezek, Executive Director	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
Anita Givens, Senior Director, Education Technology	Texas Education Agency
Elsa Macias, Director of Information Technology Research	Tomas Rivera Policy Institute
Donald J. Leu, Professor and Endowed Chair in Literacy and Technology	Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut
Bob Mendenhall, President	Western Governors University
Renee Hobbs, Associate Professor of Communication	Director, Media Literacy Project, Babson College
Julie Walker, Executive Director	American Libraries Association (ALA)
Paul Resta, Director of Technology	University of Texas at Austin
Chris Dede, Chair	Learning and Teaching Technology in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Joe Kitchens, Superintendent	Western Heights School District, State of Oklahoma
Melinda George, Executive Director	State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
Rick White, President and CEO	TechNet