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Partnership for 21st Century Skills Issues Request for Information

Public-Private Organization Encourages Education Stakeholders to Contribute Information Regarding 21st Century Skills, ICT Literacy and Professional Development

WASHINGTON – November 20, 2003 – The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a non-profit organization working to integrate 21st century skills into learning and education, today issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather feedback from educators, policymakers and the business community regarding 21st century skills, information and communications technology (ICT) literacy and associated professional development.

“In pursuing the goals of the Partnership, we believe it’s essential to solicit information and resources from the education, government and business communities in order to articulate a unified vision for 21st century skills, ICT literacy and professional development,” said Diny Golder-Dardis, director of research and development and education liaison for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. “We encourage education stakeholders to contribute to the dialogue on the importance of implementing 21st century skills in our classrooms.”

The purpose of the RFI is to collect research and highlighted examples to guide the Partnership’s second year initiatives and gather feedback in order to articulate a collective vision for 21st century skills. The RFI solicits educators, administrators, policymakers, business leaders and university faculty and researchers to contribute information on the following issues:

- Describing successful implementations of 21st century skills, including ICT literacy and associated professional development.
- Identifying research and resources to further refine the Partnership’s Milestones for Improving Learning and Education (MILE) Guide, a self-assessment tool that enables educators and administrators to measure the progress of their schools in defining, teaching and assessing 21st century skills.
- Providing successful examples of ICT literacy and professional development implementation and assessment strategies.

The RFI is published on the Partnership’s Web site at www.21stcenturyskills.org, and the deadline for the first round of submissions is January 16, 2004. The RFI is issued for research and information purposes only and information received in response to the RFI may be made available to the public in connection with tools, reports, or other Partnership materials.

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About the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a unique public-private organization whose members include Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco, Dell, Microsoft, the National Education Association, SAP and Time Warner Foundation. The effort is supported by the U.S. Department of Education. The Partnership has come together to reach consensus on and advocate for a model of learning that will help close the gap between the knowledge and skills most students learn in school and what they need in typical 21st century communities and workplaces. In June 2003, the Partnership issued a free report, *Learning in the 21st Century*, and companion *Milestones for Improving Learning and Education (MILE) Guide for 21st Century Skills*, which allow educators and administrators to measure the progress of their schools in defining, teaching and assessing 21st century skills.

Based in Washington, DC and Tucson, Arizona, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a joint project developed by Infotech Strategies and JES & Co. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 organization. More information can be found at www.21stcenturyskills.org.

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