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Contact: Kari Shellhorn
shellhorn@itstrategies.com
(202) 585-0235

Partnership for 21st Century Skills Applauds Creation of Interagency Working Group to Foster Advanced Technologies for Education and Training

WASHINGTON (October 23, 2003) – The Partnership for 21st Century Skills commends the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Education for the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Advanced Technologies for Education and Training and their demonstrated leadership in moving to the front of the national agenda the important role technology can play in making breakthroughs in education and training.

“Our organization has identified a new framework for thinking about 21st century skills in education that builds upon the current emphasis on core subjects and assessments and better prepares students for work and life in the 21st century,” said Amelia Maurizio, chairperson for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. “The Interagency Working Group created today can assist our efforts by reflecting on how new technologies can make breakthroughs in how 21st century skills are taught and learned.”

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills stands prepared to work with the new Interagency Working Group to support their efforts, specifically its work examining U.S. research and development investments in advanced technologies for education and training and the factors that affect technology innovation in education and training.

“We applaud the Federal government’s efforts to foster advanced technologies for education and training,” said Maurizio. “We believe there needs to be a strong dialogue between government, businesses and education to develop a consensus, vision and work plan in these two areas.”

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, Time Warner Foundation and SAP. 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. They have issued a free report, *Learning in the 21st Century*, and companion *MILE (Milestones for Improving Learning and Education) Guide for 21st Century Skills* to help communities develop a framework for moving forward.

Based in Washington, DC and Tucson, Arizona, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a joint project developed and administered cooperatively 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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