

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Renaissance Learning and Vantage Learning Integrate Product Offerings

**April 29, 2009, Wisconsin Rapids, WI** – Renaissance Learning and Vantage Learning today announced a joint agreement that will enable the wireless connection of NEO 2™ laptops to work seamlessly with MY Access!® software, enhancing the writing offering of NEO 2 and providing expanded, cost-effective student access to MY Access!.

NEO 2 laptops, which are part of Renaissance Learning’s hardware line, offer valuable writing and keyboarding practice throughout the curriculum. In addition, the NEO 2 allows students to take Accelerated Reader™ quizzes, enhance computational fluency with the MathFacts in a Flash™ software, interactively participate in lessons through the built-in classroom response system, print documents wirelessly, and upload documents to Google Docs™, Google’s document, spreadsheet, and presentation application.

MY Access! is an award-winning, web-delivered instructional program that diagnoses and assesses the writing ability of students in grades 4-12 and at the college level. With MY Access!, students are motivated to write more and attain higher scores on writing assessments. The program’s powerful scoring engine grades students’ essays instantly and provides targeted feedback, freeing teachers from grading thousands of papers by hand and giving them more time to conduct differentiated instruction and curriculum planning.

As a result of this partnership, students using their NEO 2s can wirelessly download writing prompts from MY Access!, draft their writing assignment, and then wirelessly upload their work to MY Access! for instantaneous evaluation with feedback. Additionally, Vantage Learning has developed automated essay responses for the Top 100 Most Read Books so students can complete their Accelerated Reader quizzes and also work on a meaningful writing assignment about the book.

“The integration of the NEO 2 and MY Access! creates an exciting opportunity for students to write and revise even more frequently,” stated Harry Barfoot, Vice President for Vantage Learning. “The results are clear: the more students write, the better writers they become. This unique partnership will allow greater frequency of student writing than ever before.”

“Our partnership with Vantage Learning enhances the writing instruction and assessment capabilities of the NEO 2,” said Steve Schmidt, President and Chief Operating Officer of Renaissance Learning. “This integration provides another quality way for students to use the NEO 2 laptop in and outside the classroom and provides a cost-effective way for customers to expand their students’ writing practice and assessment feedback using MY Access!.”

The free update to NEO 2 that includes the integration with MY Access! will be available Summer 2009.

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### **About Renaissance Learning, Inc.**

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world’s leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for pre-K–12 schools. Adopted by more than 74,000 schools, Renaissance Learning’s tools provide daily formative assessment and periodic progress-monitoring technology to enhance core curriculum, support differentiated instruction, and personalize practice in reading, writing and math. Renaissance Learning products help educators make the practice component of their existing curriculum more effective by providing tools to personalize practice and easily manage the daily activities for students of all levels. As a result, teachers using Renaissance Learning products accelerate learning, get more satisfaction from teaching, and help students achieve higher test scores on state and national tests. Renaissance Learning has seven U.S. locations and subsidiaries in Canada and the United Kingdom.

**About Vantage Learning**

A pioneer delivering advanced education solutions via Software as a Service (SaaS), Vantage Learning is recognized as the leader in cost-effective, high volume, secure, scalable online assessment and instructional programs for K-12 and higher education. Leveraging technology such as artificial intelligence, natural language understanding, and web-based learning objects, Vantage provides educators with high-quality tools and resources that motivate students to learn and that create meaningful interactions between students, parents and teachers.

Acknowledged by industry leaders as the gold standard for scoring quality, consistency, reliability, and scalability of automated essay scoring using the patented IntelliMetric® engine, Vantage Learning has received accolades ranging from the prestigious CODiE Award for best instructional technology to recognition by Eduventures as one of the eight most innovative educational technology companies.