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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIND Research Institute Launches National Algebra Readiness Intervention Program

***Algebra Readiness* provides a full year intervention for struggling math students**

SAN ANTONIO, TX, June 30, 2008 – At the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), the non-profit MIND Research Institute launched *Algebra Readiness* – a new national intervention program. This program is a full year course that rebuilds a solid math foundation for middle and high school students and prepares them for success in Algebra 1.

Unique in its visual approach, the rigorous yet engaging curriculum presents a different way to literally “look” at mathematics. Students all begin with mastering basic arithmetic and mathematical properties on the number line, and finish with basic linear algebra concepts and word-problem-solving skills. As they progress through the text and weekly instructional software, right from the start they achieve success, build confidence, and grasp mathematical concepts in a deep and meaningful way. The program follows a uniquely sequenced instructional design, as outlined in the textbook, and seamlessly integrates this with tightly integrated visual software that’s presented using a game metaphor. Both components, text and software, were designed from scratch to cover the same concepts, in the same order, using the same visuals and language, so they build off one another and reinforce key concepts.

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The lack of students' preparedness for Algebra has been evidenced by low pass rates of only 39% in Algebra I courses nationwide. Most recently, the National Math Panel, cited the following in its Spring report "The sharp falloff in mathematics achievement in the U.S. begins as students reach late middle school, where, for more and more students, algebra course work begins. Questions naturally arise about how students can be best prepared for entry into Algebra."

Dr. Matthew Peterson, the neuroscientist who created MIND's research-based *ST Math*[™] line of software and whose research has focused on applications of visual neuroscience to learning environments, provided expert testimony to the panel on the rationale and results of applying instructional software to help solve the nation's math problem.

"*Algebra Readiness* features MIND's patent-pending visual approach, which both engages students at any level, and explains math in a direct but powerful way they can understand and retain," said Dr. Peterson. "MIND developed the program in response to the persistent low student success rate in Algebra I classes and the increasing use of Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma."

Dr. Peterson's program begins with fundamental math concepts in both text and software to result in immediate success for students. It then incorporates a gradual ramp that takes them through an innovative sequence of learning at their own pace. The curriculum deliberately and directly explains and associates each new math concept or skill with mathematically accurate illustrations, tapping into students' innate ability to be engaged and learn through visualization. *Algebra Readiness* helps students develop rigorous mathematical understanding and make permanent connections between abstract and concrete concepts.

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Availability

The complete set of materials includes the *Algebra Readiness* software, teacher and student edition textbooks, and additional instructional materials. The research-proven math software taps the brain's natural ability to think ahead in pictures; the innovative presentation and diagrams in the textbook explain and connect essential math concepts and skills covered in grades 2 through 7; and the warm-ups, assessments and additional teacher resource materials provide the requisite tools to successfully implement the program.

Algebra Readiness is available now through MIND Research Institute. The software is in hybrid Power Macintosh® and PC format and requires Internet access. For information about the program or pricing, call MIND Research toll free at (888) 751-5443 or visit its website at www.mindresearch.net.

MIND Research Institute Background

The MIND Research Institute is a non-profit education researcher and publisher. MIND uses its distinctive visual approach to illustrating math concepts and building problem-solving skills as the basis for innovative, research-proven math education programs for elementary and secondary schools. The programs include the *ST Math™: K-5* patent-pending instructional software for all K-5 students, *ST Math™: Algebra Readiness* instructional software for intervention at the secondary level, and a complete *Algebra Readiness* course with a fully-featured textbook and integrated software for secondary schools. The visual approach featured in each program taps into each student's innate ability to do spatial-temporal (ST) reasoning and problem-solving, and is effective at engaging students at all levels of language and academic proficiency. There are currently over 300 schools in California, Texas and 13 other states, and more than 59,000 students and 3,500 teachers participating in the program.

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