



## PRESS RELEASE

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### COMPUTER EXPLORERS' Partnership with Mississippi School District Captures Excellence Award at State Sponsored Luncheon

CYPRESS, Texas – The success of COMPUTER EXPLORERS' (CE) two-year partnership with Madison County Schools prompted the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) Board of Directors to award its 2007 Partnership Excellence Award to COMPUTER EXPLORERS, Madison County Schools and the Madison Avenue Upper Elementary PTA. The award was presented at the Mississippi Governor's Awards Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi, in late March.

COMPUTER EXPLORERS, a provider of technology education for children, broke new ground beginning in 2005, conducting a pilot program of their Integrated Technology Resource Program (ITRP) with public school students in the Madison County School District in Mississippi. Helen Pinkerton, owner of CE in Madison, facilitated this partnership with educators and administrators in the Mississippi public school system.

“Forming a partnership with COMPUTER EXPLORERS has been a wonderful opportunity for both our students and our teachers,” says Jo Prather, elementary curriculum coordinator for the Madison County School District. “Working together, CE and our faculty provide a unique blend of specialized expertise in education and technology that will continue to make science more exciting and attractive to our students.”

More than 40 volunteers joined forces with COMPUTER EXPLORERS personnel and Madison Avenue Upper Elementary PTA, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers were the beneficiaries. Noted results for students were improved achievement, retention of science facts and theories and enhanced technological literacy. Students, in addition to becoming participants in Space Week held in Mississippi schools, became designers, inventors and technologists, and were motivated to learn math, writing and reading comprehension as part of the program. Teachers

received professional development leading to the creation of lesson plans integrating science and technology which achieved school goals over the two-year period.

“Helen Pinkerton has laid the groundwork for COMPUTER EXPLORERS to create partnerships with public school systems throughout the nation,” says Deb Evans, CE president. “The Partnership Excellence Award from the State of Mississippi is positive proof that the program makes a difference in raising the bar in education for both students and their teachers.”

**COMPUTER EXPLORERS**, part of the International Center for Entrepreneurial Development (ICED), is the largest and fastest growing home-based provider of computer technology education for children in the U. S., offering computer enrichment to students, ages three to 15, at child care centers, schools and other community sites. CE franchise opportunities are available in all 50 of the United States, in Canada and countries throughout the world.

#### **About ICED**

COMPUTER EXPLORERS is part of the International Center for Entrepreneurial Development, Inc. ICED, located in Cypress, Texas, is the parent company for Kwik Kopy Printing, American Wholesale Thermographers, Copy Club, The Ink Well, Franklin’s Printing, Women’s Health Boutique, Parcel Plus, Kwik Kopy Business Centers and COMPUTER EXPLORERS. This group represents one of the world’s largest international alliances of printing, communications and education franchises with business relationships in the United States and 10 other countries. These company names are all registered trademarks or service marks of I.C.E.D. Management, Inc.

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Left to right: Mike Kent, Superintendent, Madison School District; Helen Pinkerton, owner, COMPUTER EXPLORERS in Madison, MS; Rick Ross, Principal, Madison Avenue Upper Elementary; Sharon Ballard, Technology Director, Madison Avenue Upper Elementary ; Connie Goodwin, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; Ronnie McGehee, Deputy Superintendent, Madison School District; Jo Prather, Curriculum Director, Madison School District