

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Golden Apple Becomes Affiliate of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

CHICAGO (June 16, 2009) – Golden Apple Foundation announced today that it has become an Affiliate of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a program established for companies and organizations that specialize in providing administrator and educator training to states, districts and schools.

“We are thrilled and honored to be involved with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills,” said Dom Belmonte, Golden Apple president and CEO. “Our programs have a long history of incorporating many of the same skills and themes that make up the Framework for 21st Century Learning. The P21 Framework’s 15 interdisciplinary themes are well aligned with our signature Inquiry Science Workshops and were actually the focus of our 2008 Golden Apple Fellows’ Sabbatical Seminar at Northwestern University. We have also incorporated the framework into two new professional development programs designed to help teachers build capacity in the areas of 21st century skills and are planned as pilot programs later this year.”

Golden Apple became an Affiliate after undergoing an application process that requires organizations to indicate how they will incorporate the 21st Skills Framework into their programs. Successful applicants were required to attend a comprehensive three-day training on the P21 framework. Upon completion of the program, participants become part of a national community committed to infusing 21st century skills into K-12 instructional practices and sharing their work with colleagues.

“Golden Apple’s membership in the Affiliate Program signifies our support for and adoption of the 21st Century Skills Framework in our professional development work,” Belmont explained. “And we are delighted that Illinois was announced this week as a Leadership State by the Partnership, becoming one of 13 states committed to the goal of ensuring that their students learn world-class content and world-class skills.”

“As more states join the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and districts and schools investigate how to combine existing educational practices with 21st century skills, there is a growing need for assistance in making this reform a reality,” said Paige Kuni, worldwide manager of K-12 education for Intel Corporation and chair of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. “The affiliate program satisfies this need by forging a national network of providers that are proficient in helping educators embed 21st century skills into their education systems.”

“Through the PD Affiliate program, the Partnership is helping align professional development with 21st century skills and, in so doing, empowering the county’s leading practitioners to incorporate 21st century skills professional development into existing program models,” said Ken Kay, president of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. “The official launch of this program demonstrates another avenue the Partnership for 21st Century Skills has created to help educators embed 21st century skills into everyday instruction.”

About the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The organization brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child’s success as citizens and workers in the 21st century. The Partnership encourages schools, districts, and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education and provides tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change.

21st Century Skills Leadership States include: Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Dakota, Wisconsin and West Virginia, Nevada, Louisiana, and Illinois.

About Golden Apple

Golden Apple began in 1985 with founders Mike and Pat Koldyke and a shared inspiration — to offer outstanding schoolteachers a level of recognition and engagement in the larger work of education reform. Golden Apple's successful track record now spans more than 20 years. Integrated, innovative Golden Apple programs and resources enhance the quality, resiliency, and creativity of classroom teachers and improve teaching and learning throughout Illinois. Qualified, passionate educators — including Golden Apple Award-winners and finalists — lead a small staff of dedicated employees with functional and program expertise. A connected and committed board of directors oversees Golden Apple's strategic direction. Together with a larger community of expert educators, the not-for-profit organization works to ensure that all Illinois children have the excellent teachers they deserve.

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