

## **BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING APPOINTS THOMAS EMRICK PRESIDENT**

Iowa City, IA, March 14 2006—Buckle Down Publishing, a division of Haight Cross Communication's Triumph Learning unit, announced that Thomas Emrick has been promoted to President and General Manager. He had been Executive Vice President and Publisher. Emrick reports to Kevin McAliley, Triumph Learning's President and CEO. Former Buckle Down Publishing President, Linda Hein, has resigned in order to spend more time with her family in Minnesota.

"Tom Emrick has demonstrated strong leadership, product development expertise, and a talent for team building," said McAliley. "He has played a major role in strengthening Buckle Down Publishing's editorial quality, product development processes, and cost structure. He has a remarkable track record in building fast-growth publishing businesses.

"I am delighted to take on the leadership of the Buckle Down team," Emrick said. "Buckle Down has been a brand leader in its market segments and we have the potential to accelerate and expand that leadership."

Emrick joined Buckle Down in December 2004 as Vice President of Product Development and was promoted to EVP and Publisher in December 2005. Prior to joining Buckle Down, Emrick was founder and CEO of Centre Pointe Learning, a secondary school science publishing company. He also held executive positions with Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, where he was the founding development editor of the acclaimed "Pegasus" skills/literature-based Reading/Language Arts basal series; and he was Publisher of the Math/Science Publishing Group at South-Western Educational Publishing, a Thomson Learning Company division. He began his career in education, serving as elementary school teacher, principal, and adjunct college professor. Emrick earned a BA from the University of Northern Iowa, an MA from Northeast Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. from Loyola University of Chicago.

**About Buckle Down Publishing and Triumph Learning:**

Based in Iowa City, IA, Buckle Down Publishing was founded in 1982 and is one of the nation's leading publishers of state test preparation materials. Triumph Learning, formerly known as Educational Design, Inc., has a 40-year track record of publishing

high-quality K-12 supplemental materials. Triumph Learning is the largest publisher of test preparation materials for state tests, and develops and distributes the renowned Coach™ series for test programs in 25 states as well as for the three major nationally normed tests. Together, Buckle Down and Triumph Learning is the largest publisher of standards-focused instructional materials used to prepare for the tests mandated by NCLB legislation. For more information, visit [www.buckledown.com](http://www.buckledown.com) and [www.triumphlearning.com](http://www.triumphlearning.com)

**About Hights Cross Communications:**

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information, visit [www.hightscross.com](http://www.hightscross.com).

Safe Harbor Statement: This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential,” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties, and other factors may cause our actual results, performances, or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.