

BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING PRESS RELEASE

Editorial Contact:

Michael Stugrin

(562) 498-6353

mstugrin@verizon.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING APPOINTS THOMAS EMRICK PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CHIEF

Iowa City, IA, January 6, 2005—Buckle Down Publishing, a division of Hights Cross Communication's Triumph Learning unit, announced that Thomas Emrick has joined the company as Vice President of Product Development. Emrick reports to Linda Hein, Buckle Down Publishing's President and CEO.

Hein said: "Tom brings a wealth of educational publishing experience to Buckle Down Publishing. His publishing career is marked with examples of his ability build a strong editorial team, anticipate customer needs, and improve education materials available for students. Tom's immediate challenges will include strengthening our imprints and anticipating the future needs of customers as well as continuing to grow and develop the editorial and product development teams at Buckle Down Publishing."

Emrick began his career in education, serving as an elementary school teacher, a principal, and adjunct professor. He later joined Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. Emrick was also Publisher of the Math/Science Publishing Group at South-Western Educational Publishing, a Thomson Learning Company division. Most recently, Emrick founded Centre Pointe Learning, a secondary school science publishing company. He holds a BA from the University of Northern Iowa, an MA from Northeast Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. from Loyola University of Chicago.

Emrick commented: "As we look to the future in education, particularly with the passage of No Child Left Behind legislation, the ability to accurately and effectively measure a student's mastery of concepts is ever more important. Buckle Down has a rich history in this endeavor. I look forward to helping Buckle Down continue to vision, develop, and provide materials of excellence to meet our corporate mission."

About Buckle Down Publishing and Triumph Learning:

Based in Iowa City, IA, Buckle Down was founded in 1982 and is one of the nation's leading publishers of preparation materials for high-stakes state tests. Triumph Learning, based in New York, NY, is a comprehensive provider of print and software preparation materials for state and national tests. It has a highly successful 19-year track record of publishing high-quality materials proven to help students master the standards assessed on high stakes state tests. Triumph Learning creates and distributes the renowned *Coach*

series for testing programs in 23 states. 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.triumphlearning.com

About Hights Cross Communications:

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross Communications is a premier educational and library publisher dedicated to creating the finest books, audio products, periodicals, software and online services, serving the following markets: K-12 supplemental education, public and school library publishing, audio books, and medical continuing education publishing. Hights Cross companies include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Chelsea House Publishers (Northborough, MA). For more information, visit 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.
