

# **HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS** **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS ACQUIRES SCOTT PUBLISHING –ADDING PERSONAL BEST® WELLNESS EDUCATION PRODUCT LINE**

White Plains, NY, April 20, 2005 – Hights Cross Communications, Inc. (HCC) announced today it has acquired Scott Publishing, dba Personal Best® Communications, Inc., a closely held Edmonds, WA-based publisher of employee wellness newsletters, calendars, and web-based products. The company was established in 1989 as Scott Publishing, founded by Donald R. Scott and Diane McReynolds. The company will join Hights Cross Communications' Oakstone Publishing unit, Oakstone Wellness Publishing. Terms of the transaction, which will close in the second quarter 2005, were not disclosed.

About the Personal Best® Publishing acquisition, HCC's Chairman and CEO, Peter J. Quandt, said: "As employee health care costs become a bigger issue than ever for U.S. companies, employee wellness education will play an increasing role in containing those costs. Our Oakstone Wellness unit, which is already a well-regarded leader in employee wellness education, will be strengthened by this acquisition. For HCC, we have recognized with renewed vividness that supplemental adult education will become increasingly important as the enormous 'baby-boomer' population ages."

Personal Best® Communications' flagship product, the Personal Best® newsletter, was established in 1982 when Donald R. Scott was associated with a private organization. Now published in multiple editions, the newsletter has developed a strong reputation for providing authoritative information and guidance on individual and family issues related to health, wellness, nutrition, and safety. The company has produced health/wellness calendars for 11 years and fully customized publications since 1989. Its products are read regularly by well over two million individuals in the United States and Canada, including employees and clients of corporations, managed care and insurance companies, government agencies, schools, and other health-related organizations.

Nancy McMeekin, Oakstone Publishing's President and CEO, said: "We're delighted to welcome the Personal Best® team to Oakstone and Hights Cross. Wellness education is a huge issue in our society, and Oakstone Wellness is now positioned to accelerate our growth in this fast-growing and important market."

Charles Dismuke, Oakstone Wellness Publisher, said: "We are particularly pleased that Diane McReynolds, who has served as Editor of Personal Best® for 23 years and President of Scott Publishing for 16 years, has agreed to become Executive Editor for all Oakstone Wellness/Personal Best® publications. Diane's experience in health and wellness education and her excellent leadership skills will make her a tremendous asset to the new, combined business."

**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](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.

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