

HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Editorial Contact:

Michael Stugrin

562-498-6353

mstugrin@earthlink.net

Public Libraries Use Recorded Books' Universal Class Service to Meet Diverse Needs of Library Communities

Prince Frederick, MD – September 30, 2010 – Since launching its Universal Class library service in early September, Recorded Books has had over 40 public libraries subscribe to the new online continuing education service.

One of the first libraries to add Universal Class to its database offerings is the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, Colorado. "I'm excited about Universal Class because it offers continuing education classes that are relevant for our whole community -- from learning more about a hobby, to improving job skills, to increasing knowledge. Universal Class will enrich our patron's lives," said Kay Zimmerman Loeber, Electronic Resources Librarian at the Pueblo City-County Library District. "At a time when budgets are tight, this service is a way that we can offer hundreds of continuing education opportunities to our customers. In the first week, I was able to share the relevance of Universal Class courses at existing programs for homeschoolers, community business people, and genealogists."

Available through subscribing public libraries and higher education institutions, Universal Class offers learners a unique online education experience. With real instructors guiding the learning, students enjoy a measurable learning experience that helps them master and document their educational goals. Other features include:

- Engaging video-based lessons
- Collaborative learning environment
- Graded lesson tests
- Certificates of achievement
- Continuing Education Units for selected courses

With a growing catalog of over 540 courses, Universal Class is committed to providing affordable and high quality online training. Over 300,000 students worldwide have benefited from Universal Class' unique instructional technologies.

Universal Class offers courses in Exercise and Fitness, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Music, Home and Garden Care, Cooking, Computers and Technology, Health and Medicine, Homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law and Legal, Parenting and Family, Pet and Animal Care, and more.

For more information regarding Recorded Books' Universal Class service contact universalclass@recordedbooks.com, on the web go to www.recordedbooks.com, or call 1-877-828-2833.

About Recorded Books: Recorded Books, LLC, a Hights Cross Communications company, produces and distributes unabridged audiobooks and other audio products to public and university libraries and schools on CD, cassette, Playaway digital player, and downloadable audio formats. Over 9,000 titles are available for adults, children, and young adults in English and Spanish languages narrated by professional, award-winning actors. Recorded Books also distributes music, educational lectures, language learning courses, independent films, and nonfiction films on DVD. Packaging is designed for high circulation. One-year warranty, cataloging, processing, and free MARC records are available. For more information, visit <http://www.recordedbooks.com/>

About Universal Class: Universal Class, Inc. [also known as UniversalClass™ or UniversalClass.com™] is an education technology company that provides online services to schools, corporations, organizations, educators, and students throughout the world. It aims to advance intellectual exchange in teaching, research, and service with its technology and belief that education should be affordable to all people of all cultures.

About Hights Cross Communications: Founded in 1997 and based in New York, 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 libraries, and consumers. Hights Cross companies include: Triumph Learning, Buckle Down Publishing and Options Publishing, and Recorded Books. For more information, visit www.hightscross.com. Triumph Learning is HCC's test-preparation and intervention business and is comprised of its *Coach*, *Buckle Down*, and *Options* brands. Recorded Books is a leading publisher of unabridged audiobooks and other audio media for libraries, schools, and consumers, with operations in the U.S., U.K. and Australia.

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