

# HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Triumph Learning's New *Texas Coach* and *Texas TAKS Progress Coach* Are Designed to Help Texas Students Meet TEKS Objectives**

New York, NY, October 26, 2009 — Triumph Learning, the market leader in state-specific, standards-focused learning that supports student instruction, and a Hights Cross Communications company, said today that it has introduced a major new edition of its best-selling *Texas Coach*, and an important new series, *Texas TAKS Progress Coach, Mathematics*. *Texas Coach, English Language Arts* (Grades 1-8), *Texas Coach, Mathematics* (Grades 1-8), and *Texas TAKS Progress Coach, Mathematics* (Grades 3-8) are fully aligned to the latest Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) testing program objectives and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations.

According to John Lawler, President of Triumph Learning: "Triumph Learning has been working with teachers and curriculum specialists in Texas for over 25 years. We have maintained a deep commitment to evolving and expanding our well-respected *Coach* series to support both the TEKS curriculum objectives and the TAKS testing program. We have developed an expansive methodology that aligns *Coach* content, style, and format with what Texas students actually encounter in testing situations. Teachers find that this 'real life' experience helps students develop key skills, which is borne out by improved performance on the actual tests," Lawler said.

Specific features of the *Texas Coach* series include:

- Two full-length TAKS practice tests, modeled after the actual exam.
- Coached reading passages and independent practice for the skills with which students have the most difficulty.
- Fiction and nonfiction reading passages.
- Multiple-choice and gridded-response TAKS test practice questions.
- "Getting the Idea" sections that introduce important concepts.
- Test-taking tips and strategies.
- Teacher's Guide with answer key; additional mini-lessons, including reproducible sheets for students to practice key skills; Standards Correlation Charts; Test Correlation Charts; and bubble sheets.

The new *Texas Progress Coach, Mathematics* series is designed to help struggling students master baseline mathematics skills. Content and skills are at grade level, while instruction is simplified with stepped-out examples to help all students grasp the concepts. Each lesson walks students through several examples and ends with a section of graduated TAKS test practice questions. Specific features of the *Texas Progress Coach* series include:

- Scaffolded lessons and focused practice to help striving students master skills.
- Content that is aligned to the TEKS Expectations and TAKS Objectives and to *Coach*.
- Periodic “Progress Checks” that provide below- and on-level questions for graduated test practice.
- Full-length, on-grade-level practice test to measure progress.

*Progress Coach* is often used in after-school intervention programs, in summer school, in the classroom for differentiated instruction, and for take-home assignments for extra help.

“We have heard from Texas educators that *TAKS Coach* books have been successfully utilized in a variety of settings to assist students in acquiring specific skills and preparing for testing day. Students have greater confidence and less anxiety after using *TAKS Coach*. With *TAKS Progress Coach*, our extended *Coach* program, educators will be able to assist striving students in reading and math by providing a stepped-out program that allows students to acquire the necessary skills without on-grade level reading as a barrier to skill acquisition,” says Ken Butkus, Triumph Learning’s Executive Vice President of Sales.

For more information about *Texas Coach* and *Texas TAKS Progress Coach* products, please visit [www.triumphlearning.com/TX](http://www.triumphlearning.com/TX) or contact Marc Keller at 212-652-0228 or [mkeller@triumphlearning.com](mailto:mkeller@triumphlearning.com).

**About Triumph Learning, LLC:**

Triumph Learning is the tenth-largest supplemental educational publisher in the US, and a market leader in state-specific test-preparation materials. Its three imprints (*Coach*, *Buckle Down*, and *Options*) are based in New York City, New York and Littleton, Massachusetts.

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**About Hights Cross:**

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 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](http://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.

**Safe Harbor Statement:**

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the

Company's plans, intentions and expectations. Such statements are inherently subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. The forward-looking statements that we make in this Current Report are subject to a variety of risks, uncertainties, and other factors known and unknown that could cause actual results to differ materially from such forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to the completion of the Company's announced restructuring and planned operation of our business, including the outcome and impact on our business of any resulting proceedings under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Company makes no assurance that it will be successful in consummating the proposed Plan and restructuring or any other restructuring proposal on favorable terms if at all, which could also adversely affect the Company's business plans and expectations. As a result, the Company makes no assurance that the treatment of creditors outlined in this report and the term sheet included in the Support Agreement will not change significantly. A more extensive discussion of the risk factors that could impact these areas and the Company's overall business and financial performance can be found in the Company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The risks included above are not exhaustive. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any such statements to reflect any change in the Company's expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.