



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DDI and the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs win major grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences

Carbondale, Colorado – June 22, 2009 – Digital Directions International (DDI), creator of the award winning *HELP Math Program*, in partnership with the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs was recently awarded a major, multi-year grant entitled *The Math Learning Companion: An Individualized Intervention for Students with Math Learning Disabilities* from the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education.

HELP Math was initially designed for English language learners (ELLs), but has since been proven to effectively help and engage students with special needs. As evidence of this, *HELP* won the 2009 CODiE award from SIIA for the best educational program for Students with Special Needs and was also chosen as a CODiE finalist as the Best Instructional Math Solution.

“This new grant will fund exciting cutting edge adaptive educational technology that will extend the *HELP Math* program's reach to individualize math instruction. The *Math Learning Companion* will be the first comprehensive mathematics intervention designed specifically for students with learning disabilities at the middle school level that provides a seamless link between diagnostic analyses, provision of an adaptive standards-aligned curriculum, and a comprehensive monitoring system”, stated Dr. Lindy Crawford, Associate Dean, UCCS College of Education.

“We are thrilled to be working with Dr. Crawford and her team at UCCS to develop this exciting new version of the *HELP* Program. It is an amazing achievement to win a grant from IES, which has perhaps the most rigorous review process of any grant in the education field” stated Barbara Freeman, DDI's President and *HELP* Program creator and Managing Director.

“The funding for this new program will enable DDI to continue our focus on cutting edge technology solutions for the education market. The combination of creating an intervention that is data-driven and can be directly utilized in an RTI (Response to Intervention) context that also contains powerful Sheltered Instruction features will be of great interest to districts and schools across the country” stated John Ramo, DDI's Founder & CEO.

About the *HELP Math Program*

HELP (*Help for English Language Proficiency*) **MATH** for ELL and Special Needs is a web-based math intervention designed to address the needs of English Language and other struggling learners to reach proficiency. Developed according to Sheltered Instruction principles, **HELP** is effective for students in grades 3-8 who need to develop the academic language and concepts in the math content area. **HELP** is the only multimedia, internet delivered math program that embeds research-based principles found to be successful for ELL content area achievement. Visit <http://helpprogram.net> to learn more.

About DDI: Digital Directions International, Inc. is a socially-responsible, educational technology pioneer and publisher of digital educational content. DDI is focused on developing and co-distributing online supplemental and educational intervention software products in mathematics and science, especially for English Language Learners (ELL), Latino, and other students in need.

About the Institute for Education Sciences:

The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 established within the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The mission of IES is to provide rigorous evidence on which to ground education practice and policy. This is accomplished through the work of its four centers.

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