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Talbot Hill Elementary Recognized as a Star-Rated Site, Ranked One of Top MicroSociety® Schools in Nation

Renton, WA – October 4, 2010 — Talbot Hill Elementary School was recently rated as an exemplary model of practice in *MicroSociety* Learning Environments, and an important contributor to the pedagogy of using applied learning contexts to increase student achievement. MICRO SOCIETY is a national nonprofit organization specializing in motivating students to succeed using authentic, real-world learning environments. Talbot Hill was designated as a 3-STAR Certified site for its use of 21st Century Real-World Experiences in a Title I School.

Over its 16-year history as a *MicroSociety* school, Talbot Hill has been recognized as a Intel's 21st Century School of Distinction, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Model School received Blue Ribbon School's Lighthouse award, and for being a *MicroSociety* national model site. Plus, with over 60% of students holding leadership or management positions, and over 200 students running for office last year – the most ever in *MicroSociety* history – it's easy to see that Talbot's students are highly motivated. All ventures use technology for graphic design and desktop publishing, database management, accounting spreadsheets, and other technology-related products and services. Use of *MicroSociety* Real-World Measures includes student rubrics, stakeholder surveys, and evaluation of business plans by peers and partners. All ventures and agencies have specific real world field trips, and employees from these workplaces mentor students throughout the year. These community partners include Renton Technical College, Yuen Lui Photography Studio, and Renton Community Credit Union. The school also established The Talbot Hill Education Trust Fund, a 501(c3) nonprofit organization in order to receive grants and conduct other fundraising activities.

"The MICRO SOCIETY Star System tracks the progress of authentic *MicroSociety* sites in day and after school, in order to provide a recognizable and reliable standard within the educational community," explains Robert Kutzik, Senior Vice President and MICRO SOCIETY. "Through this system, we encourage all *MicroSociety* sites to maintain high levels of quality and to strive for continuous improvement," he adds. "We applaud the staff at Talbot Hill for their commitment to uphold our guiding principles and stay true to our founder, George Richmond's philosophy of student empowerment." He adds, "And, whether it's Washington or Florida, a funder or parent can expect the same standard of quality across sites."

About MICRO SOCIETY - MICRO SOCIETY believes that children learn best by doing. Its mission is to create environments that motivate students to learn by engaging them in the connections between the classroom and real life. For more than 15 years, the non-profit organization has provided the professional development, curriculum, and teacher training needed to implement this innovative hands-on, experiential learning design in elementary and middle schools. Its nationally-recognized model is supported by 30 years of programmatic research, refinement, and implementation in hundreds of schools and after school programs across the nation.

To learn more about MICRO SOCIETY, the philosophy, programs and services, visit www.microsociety.org.