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Philadelphia Chooses SchoolRooms™ Learning Portal for its Afterschool Programs

Thousands of Philadelphia K-12 students will have the opportunity to explore, discover and learn

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., October 23, 2006 – SirsiDynix, the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries, announced today that its SchoolRooms™ Web-based learning portal will be used by thousands of Philadelphia-area schoolchildren participating in after-hours programs in America's fifth largest city. Beginning in November 2006, K-12 students in Philadelphia Safe and Sound's (PSS) afterschool and youth development programs will have access to thousands of online educational resources organized around school curriculum. As a leading nonprofit child advocacy and research organization, PSS manages a network of more than 200 programs in Philadelphia.

SchoolRooms is a state-of-the-art Web site designed to help students explore, discover and learn. SchoolRooms integrates thousands of pages of multimedia content, Web links, other resources and powerful search capabilities – all organized around the K-12 curriculum. In subject-oriented "virtual rooms" of hand-selected content, SchoolRooms visitors find the relevant resources and knowledge that meet their needs, whether for writing a research paper, understanding new concepts or delving deeper into an area of special interest.

PSS programs, consisting of Afterschool, Beacon Programs, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers, contribute to improved school attendance and performance and provide safe places for children, youth, families and community residents, of all ages, to spend time interacting and to focus on learning. The addition of SchoolRooms to these programs also supports a violence prevention and reduction plan being conducted by the City of Philadelphia.

"Every child deserves the right to grow up healthy and safe and lead a life of unlimited promise," said Gus Keirans, vice president of best practice for PSS. "These programs are designed to be a safe haven in our communities and to provide young people with educational assistance and enrichment, and SchoolRooms is a perfect fit with our mission and our vision. It provides education resources that have been hand-selected by teachers specifically for elementary, middle and high school students. Parents can also use SchoolRooms' hundreds of pages of information on helping their children learn better. Improved academic performance for our young people is a cornerstone of rebuilding our communities. SchoolRooms is an excellent way of helping us."

Angus Carroll, SirsiDynix chief marketing officer, said: "SchoolRooms is designed to help K-12 students explore, discover and learn. Students, parents and teachers have access to school and library resources, tens of thousands of educator-approved Web links, a 'Best of the Web' feature and interactive multimedia content. SchoolRooms is the 'go-to' site for today's students, and it is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its relevance to today's society is reinforced by Philadelphia's decision to make SchoolRooms a part of such an important program and mission."

For more information about SchoolRooms, please visit www.schoolrooms.net.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For SchoolRooms and SirsiDynix Logos, see www.sirsidynix.com/Newsevents/Pressroom/logousage.php

About SirsiDynix

SirsiDynix is the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries – vital institutions whose primary mission is to make sense of the vast world of information for people and communities. This is an exciting role as libraries assist people in discovering and using knowledge, resources and other valuable content for their educations, jobs and entertainment. In concert with key industry partners, SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their capabilities for meeting the needs of people and communities. SirsiDynix has approximately 4,000 library and consortia clients, serving more than 300 million people through more than 20,000 library outlets in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. For more information, please see www.sirsidynix.com.

About Philadelphia Safe and Sound

Philadelphia Safe and Sound is a leading child advocacy agency. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of children and youth in Philadelphia. PSS manages 135 Afterschool programs, 24 21st Century Community Learning Centers and 30 Beacon Programs. The agency fosters change and reform within major public systems that serve children and families. This is accomplished in collaboration with government, foundations, corporations and community groups through the integration and leveraging of resources, research, policy analysis and program development. For more information, please see www.philasafesound.org.

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