

## **SIIA Education Division News**

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## **SIIA Celebrated *Innovation Incubators* and Announced Award Winners at Annual Ed Tech Business Forum**

*Four organizations awarded top honors for 'Most Innovative' and 'Most Likely to Succeed'*

**Washington, D.C.** (Dec. 4, 2009) – Innovation and growth of new education technologies, particularly those represented during the acclaimed *Innovation Incubator* presentations, played a pivotal role during the 9th annual Ed Tech Business Forum, sponsored by the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) this week in New York City.

SIIA's recently selected 2009 *Innovation Incubator* participants represent pre-revenue companies, non-profit groups, R&D agencies, and academic institutions, and were introduced during the recent conference.

Focusing on how critical innovation is to the future of the education industry, the SIIA Education Division narrowed the list of applicants to 10 participants and two finalists:

- Big Universe, Inc., for *BigUniverse.com*
- Skill-Life, Inc., for *Cents City*
- Engaged Minds, Inc., for *Engaged Minds*
- Flat World Knowledge for *Flat World Knowledge*
- National Geographic Society for *The JASON Project*
- KidsWrite for *KidsWrite*
- Livescribe, Inc., for *Livescribe Pulse Smartpen*
- Coaxis Services, Inc., for *PrazAs Live*
- Arizona State University for *SMALLLAB (Situating Multimedia Arts Learning Lab)*
- Waterford Institute for *Waterford Assessment of Core Skills™ (WACS)*
- KnowledgeBears.com, Inc., for *KBTeachers.com* (Finalist)
- Inigral for *Schools on Facebook* (Finalist)

SIIA continued the celebration of the *Innovation Incubator* organizations during a special awards ceremony held at the conclusion of the Ed Tech Business Forum:

- The "Most Innovative Education Product or Service" award was given to Livescribe, Inc., for *Livescribe Pulse Smartpen*.
  - The Runner-up award was given to Arizona State University for *SMALLLAB (Situating Multimedia Arts Learning Lab)*.
- The "Most Likely to Succeed in the Education Market" award was given to Waterford Institute for *Waterford Assessment of Core Skills™ (WACS)*.
  - The Runner-up award was given to Flat World Knowledge for *Flat World Knowledge*.

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According to Karen Billings, Vice President for SIIA's Education Division, "We are truly impressed by this year's line-up of *Innovation Incubator* participants, and by those organizations that received *Incubator Awards*. The more than 270 industry executives who attended the Ed Tech Business Forum in-person and online this year believe these organizations will help lead innovation in developing the technology-rich learning opportunities educators need."

The *Innovation Incubator* program connects the developers of promising, new technologies with industry leaders, potential investors and established organizations seeking partnerships or prospects for acquisition. The 29 applicants were assessed based on key selection criteria, including alignment to SIIA's Vision K-20 Benchmarks: 21st century tools; anytime/anywhere access; differentiated learning; assessment tools; and enterprise support.

The Ed Tech Business Forum is the leading business and finance conference for the K-12 and postsecondary education market. For more information regarding the forum and this year's *Innovation Incubator* program, please visit [www.edtechbusinessforum.net](http://www.edtechbusinessforum.net).

### **About SIIA**

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection for more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit [www.sija.net](http://www.sija.net).

### **About SIIA's Education Division**

SIIA's Education Division serves and represents more than 150 member companies that provide software, digital content and other technologies that address educational needs. The Division shapes and supports the industry by providing leadership, advocacy, business development opportunities and critical market information. SIIA provides a neutral business forum for its members to understand business models, technological advancements, market trends, and best practices. With the leadership of the Division Board and collaborative efforts with educators and other stakeholders, the Division undertakes initiatives to enhance the use of educational technology and the success of SIIA members.

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