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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOVING FROM THE UNKNOWN BACK TO NORMALCY**

*Two teachers from Slidell, LA are flying to Kansas City to receive more than curriculum and training*

OLATHE, KS, 28 March 2006 - The pictures captured our attention and for days, weeks, and months we watched as fellow American's struggled with the devastation. Hurricane Katrina's swath disrupted lives and took away something we all cherish - normalcy.

Two teachers, Paul Payne and Martha Gonzalez, in Slidell, LA were determined to find new and innovative ways to return normalcy to their classrooms and to the lives of their students. Sifting through the list of offers, grants, and promises of assistance, these two teachers discovered an answer to one of their many questions - immersive story-based curriculum. They saw the chance to rebuild their programs with topics like video game development and horticulture and landscape design.

But first things first, the destructive winds and rain had caused significant damage to Northshore High School. The school suffered roof damage causing extensive water damage to various parts of the school. Closed for five weeks following the storm, Northshore High School became a Red Cross shelter during the ensuing weeks. Along with all of the devastation to the school, many students, over 50% of the student population, suffered flooding to their houses.

Once the school was able to reestablish classes, Northshore High School began sharing the facility with another area high school. Northshore students would occupy the building in the morning and Salem High School would conduct classes in the afternoon. This arrangement was in place for the first three months after returning to classes.

Normalcy was still off in the distance. Payne and Gonzalez knew that with all of the problems and worries the students faced with flooded houses and displaced family members, they needed to provide the students with classes that were still challenging and rewarding - but fun.

Assistance came in the form of a grant and the offer of free training. A local Olathe company, I Support Learning, had taken immediate action after watching the events unfold after the hurricanes. Through an established educational grant, Payne and Gonzalez, applied and have each been awarded a grant.

Being the first two teachers awarded the grant; Payne and Gonzalez were given the chance to come to Kansas City, all expenses paid, to receive training on their new software. The only requirement is that they share their stories, their struggles, and ultimately their successes with the development team at I Support Learning.

Payne and Gonzalez, attended training at the I Support Learning offices on March 29-30. Both teachers were eager to share their stories.

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