

MIND Research Institute

A neuroscience and education research-based non-profit corporation

Contact Information:
 Ingrid Ellerbe
 MIND Research Institute
 Vice President of Marketing
 3631 S. Harbor Blvd.
 Santa Ana, CA, USA, 92704
 Voice: 714.751.5443 x263
 E-Mail: iellerbe@mindresearch.net
 Website: www.mindresearch.net

AWARD-WINNING MIND RESEARCH INSTITUTE HONORS CHICAGO'S AREA THIRTEEN FOR GAINS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT *National STEM Advocate and Former Astronaut Sally Ride Joins Forces with MIND to Recognize Outstanding Math Achievement in the Windy City*

SANTA ANA, Calif. -- September 14, 2010 -- The nonprofit MIND Research Institute (MIND) will host its 7th Annual Awards Dinner on October 8th to honor Chicago Public Schools Area Thirteen with the District of Distinction Award, for demonstrating outstanding growth in student math achievement, using MIND's technology-based instructional software, ST Math®. A strong example of Chicago Public School (CPS) system success, as spearheaded by CPS CEO Ron Huberman, Area Thirteen's work with MIND tells a story of successful partnership, bold leadership, innovative instructional practices, and cutting-edge application of research-based instructional software. MIND and Area Thirteen's partnership for math success is a case study of what needs to happen, from the classroom right up to the district level, to produce large scale improvement in student achievement.

MIND serves 260,000 students and 10,000 teachers in 950 schools and 19 states. In Chicago alone, they serve 42 schools and more than 8,000 children. MIND's success with its innovative, visual math software has received several prestigious awards, and made it a leader in using technology to improve the nation's standing in mathematics education. MIND's ST Math, a visual approach to teaching and learning math concepts, is providing students and teachers in Chicago and nationwide with a brighter future in school and in the 21st century workforce.

Former NASA Astronaut Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, President and CEO of Sally Ride Science is the keynote speaker for the awards event and will participate in honoring Area Thirteen. She will address the importance of having a world-class mathematics education in today's information and knowledge-driven society.

"The United States ranks 24th out of 29 countries on math achievement and too many students are not equipped to enter careers in mathematics, science, engineering and technology (STEM)," said Ride. "These students will be left without the means to become self-sufficient in a workplace that increasingly relies on problem solving and critical thinking—the knowledge and skills that a strong mathematics education brings."

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When CPS reorganized at the beginning of the 2009–2010 school year with the goal of creating a more efficient and performance-oriented management structure across the city, newly-named Area Thirteen Chief Area Officer Dr. Shawn Smith implemented MIND's ST Math in 27 Area Thirteen elementary schools. With the support of school administrators, teachers and students, this district, with a high population of minority students, realized dramatic results at its lowest performing schools in its very first year of implementation.

After using MIND's ST Math software for approximately three hours each week as a core instructional tool, math achievement at the 14 lowest performing schools in Area Thirteen grew by almost 10 points—what a recent Chicago Tribune article called “staggering” results. An analysis of comparable schools not using ST Math showed just over 2 points of growth, so the Area 13 schools improved their math achievement levels almost 5 times as fast.

“Results from the 2010 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in Area Thirteen reached record heights. A large part of our success was our partnership with the MIND Research Institute. By utilizing the ST Math instructional software students in Area Thirteen experienced dramatic gains in math achievement. Area Thirteen's strategy to raise student achievement began by crafting a Comprehensive Instructional Framework which included— instilling a performance-driven culture, defining teaching excellence, and leveraging technology,” stated Dr. Shawn Smith.

Smith also noted, “Results are proving this focus is beginning to break down old barriers in urban education and replace them with new opportunities for our students. There is no doubt that MIND's powerful instructional software is revolutionizing technology-based learning. We're proud to call them a partner.”

MIND is working nationally to raise mathematics education achievement levels, and the awards dinner will also honor three California schools that have made impressive achievement gains with MIND's math program. Leroy Anderson Elementary in San Jose, Calif., Seaciff Elementary in Huntington Beach, Calif. and El Sol Science and Arts Academy charter school in Santa Ana, Calif. will each be recognized. The results from Area Thirteen and these schools demonstrate that faithful implementation of MIND's uniquely visual math software and education process can lead to dramatic achievement gains, and turnaround persistently troubled schools.

“These schools are shining examples of the future of math education in this country,” stated Ted Smith, CEO of MIND. “When teachers are provided with well designed instructional software and an understanding of how to use it, they can obtain dramatically better student outcomes.”

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The Awards Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. at the Irvine Hyatt Regency.

To participate in this event, contact Maria Cervantes, Manager, Special Events, at (714)751-5443, ext. 239 or email mgcervantes@mindresearch.net.

MIND Research gratefully acknowledges the Awards Dinner sponsors, which are listed on the MIND website http://www.mindinst.org/cont/giving/gi_2010aad.php

Founded in 1998 at the University of California, Irvine, MIND is dedicated to applying research to the creation of revolutionary and highly effective math education programs. MIND is committed to helping all children, particularly those living in poverty or with limited language skills, achieve success in school and in life. With more than 10 years of strong results, MIND offers schools cost-effective solutions and a powerful tool to improve the educational outcomes of students.

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