



MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
November 23, 2009

For more information contact:
Sheppard Ranbom (202) 955-9450 x315
Cynthia Mackey (510) 710-3320

Big Ideas Fest To Spotlight Crisis in Education – 175 Innovators Will Converge Dec. 6-9 in Half Moon Bay To Devise Solutions to Education’s Toughest Challenges

Half Moon Bay, CA (November 23, 2009) – Prominent innovators from education and other fields will meet for three days to spotlight, challenge, and develop strategies to strengthen education in the United States. The Big Ideas Fest is not a typical conference of PowerPoint presentations and speeches but an event where a broad group of stakeholders will design and pursue solutions to some of the most challenging educational dilemmas we face today.

“The Big Ideas Fest is meant to be a starting point for a movement that supports innovation in K-20 education at a time when the need to accelerate high-quality learning is essential for our country and our future,” says Lisa Petrides, president Half Moon Bay-based Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME). The Big Ideas Fest will be held **December 6-9, 2009, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Half Moon Bay, CA**. The event is being produced by ISKME and sponsored by KnowledgeWorks Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Red Hat, Microsoft Research, Lumina Foundation for Education, and Metlife Foundation.

The list of speakers is an all-star assembly of individuals who have led significant change efforts in their fields and can help spark new thinking. They include:

- **Dr. Mae Jemison**, physician/engineer and the first African-American woman in space.
- **Brewster Kahle**, founder of Internet Archives which has archived 1.6 million books.
- **Mike Marriner**, director and co-founder of Road Trip Nation, and advocate for experiential learning.
- **Yvonne Chan**, principal of the Next Century Learning Center in Los Angeles and a member of the California State Board of Education.
- **David Calkins**, professor of robotics and computer engineering at San Francisco State University.
- **Myra Strober**, labor economist and professor emerita of education and economics at Stanford University.

“President Obama has dedicated \$5 billion to spark innovation in the nation’s schools and called for the United States to reclaim its place as the top-performing producer of college degrees and certificates in the world,” says Petrides. “Secretary of Education Arne Duncan wants to reward what works. The Big Ideas Fest is a forum to identify just that.”

The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (www.iskme.org), located in Half Moon Bay, CA, is a global leader in research and practice around knowledge sharing in the education sector. An independent non-profit organization established in 2002, ISKME is well-known for its OER Commons initiative (www.oercommons.org), as well as its award winning international research on information and knowledge use in the education sector.

###

For more information about the Big Ideas Fest, please go to: <http://www.bigideasfest.org>
For more information about ISKME, please go to <http://www.iskme.org>