

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and The National Work Readiness Council Team Up to Bring Work Readiness Assessment Nationwide

During difficult economic times, the Work Readiness Credential Provides Potential Employees and Employers with a Standard Assessment

BOSTON – March 31, 2010 - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Steck-Vaughn imprint today announced its partnership with the National Work Readiness Council (NWRC) to distribute the NWRC's Work Readiness Credential® assessment. The National Work Readiness Credential is a certification of work readiness for entry-level work. It is the first national, standards-based assessment for entry-level workers to provide a universal, transferable, national standard for work readiness.

“Customers look to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Steck-Vaughn for solutions in Adult Education and preparing America’s workforce,” said Mike Lavelle, President K-12. “Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will bring a dedicated national sales force with a loyal customer base in a wide variety of market channels including Adult Education, Workforce Development and Schools to the National Work Readiness Council partnership. We look forward to the future success of the alliance and the new possibilities it will afford entry-level job candidates, businesses and communities nation-wide.”

The National Work Readiness Credential assessment consists of four modules that assess whether the test-taker can use nine skills well enough to carry out entry-level tasks and responsibilities. Businesses from across industry sectors identified these skills as critical for entry-level workers to succeed in today’s workplace and global economy. Individuals that receive a passing score on the assessment receive a Work Readiness Credential. Those needing additional skill development to pass the assessment will be referred to an appropriate education and training provider for services.

“Getting and keeping a job is an important first step to meeting the demands of adulthood and self-sufficiency,” said Joe Mizereck, Acting Executive Director of the National Work Readiness Council. “The Work Readiness Credential is a valuable resource job candidates can use to differentiate themselves in a tight job market, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt can help us reach out to that audience.”

The National Work Readiness Credential is based on a business-defined standard of critical skills needed by entry-level workers. Employers using the credential can reduce recruitment costs, improve productivity, minimize turnover and lower on-the-job training costs by being able to confidently identify and hire credentialed entry-level workers. These individuals have proven a capacity to complete work accurately, on time, and to a high standard of quality. Earning a Work Readiness Credential further certifies an ability to work in teams to achieve mutual goals and objectives; follow work-related rules and regulations; demonstrate willingness to work and show initiative; and display responsible behaviors at work, including avoiding absenteeism and demonstrating promptness.

Job seekers will be able to use the Credential to demonstrate to prospective employers that they have the knowledge and skills needed for successful performance as entry-level workers. In some cases, attaining the Work

Readiness Credential will be an important first step towards pursuing additional education vital for success in today's economy.

The National Work Readiness Credential can improve the focus, alignment, and accountability of the workforce development system; facilitate a common understanding among employers, workers and educators about the skills necessary to obtain entry-level employment; help align the system to a common goal; promote the development of training programs that are appropriate to the needs of employers and job seekers; and provide a single set of standards to assess program performance and hold vendors accountable

Today, there are more than 215 assessment sites in 23 states that administer the work readiness assessment and over 1160 individuals have received the National Work Readiness Credential.

For more information on the National Work Readiness Credential visit: www.workreadiness.com

About Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company is a global education leader and the world's largest publisher of educational materials for pre-K–12 schools and adult education. The Company publishes a comprehensive set of best-in-class educational solutions, ranging from research-based textbook programs to instructional technology to standards-based assessments for students and educators. The Adult Education division of Steck-Vaughn is the exclusive distributor of the Official GED® Practice Tests and offers an extensive line of products for adult basic education and assessment including GED test preparation and products to support transitioning students into post-secondary education programs or the workforce. The Company also publishes an extensive line of reference works and award-winning literature for adults and young readers. With origins dating back to 1832, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt combines its tradition of excellence with a commitment to innovation. To learn more about Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, visit www.hmhpublish.com.

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