



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUCKLE DOWN PUBLISHING INTRODUCES NEW OCCT PREP MATERIALS FOR OKLAHOMA

Iowa City, IA, March 13, 2006 — Buckle Down Publishing, a national leader in state-specific test preparation and a Hights Cross Communications company, has introduced its new test-preparation line developed exclusively for Oklahoma's Core Curriculum Test (OCCT). The new *Buckle Down Oklahoma OCCT* series, released this spring, is 100% aligned with the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) Standards and Objectives and provides students with OCCT-formatted practice.

The complete line of workbooks and practice tests features comprehensive instruction and review in all content areas tested by the OCCT — Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and English Language Arts.

Highlights of the new *Buckle Down Oklahoma OCCT* series include:

- “OCCT Practice” sections at the end of each lesson, providing students with practice items that match the format and the appearance of the OCCT
- Regionalized content, featuring references to Oklahoma people, places, and culture
- Two included practice test forms, including an accent color to match the style of the OCCT

“Our new OCCT preparation materials provide Oklahoma-specific review for a state that up to now has had to use materials not customized to their state's standards. Our new series demonstrates Buckle Down's commitment to Oklahoma students and

educators,” said Dr. Tom Emrick, president of Buckle Down Publishing. “The attention to detail and meticulous matching to the OCCT format, such as the two-color practice tests, are what make this series so successful.”

The workbooks and practice tests are developed exclusively for classroom review in preparation for the Oklahoma assessment program. For additional information, visit www.BuckleDown.com. Buckle Down Publishing’s Educational Services Department is also available to answer questions at 800-776-3454.

About Buckle Down Publishing:

Buckle Down Publishing, a division of Hights Cross Communications’ Triumph Learning unit, is one of the nation’s leading publishers of state-specific, test-preparation materials. Founded in 1982 and based in Iowa City, IA, Buckle Down creates supplemental student workbooks and practice tests that combine standards-based instruction and test-formatted practice with regionalized content. Together, Buckle Down and Triumph Learning is the largest publisher of standards-focused instructional materials used to prepare for the tests mandated by NCLB legislation. For more information, visit www.buckledown.com.

About Hights Cross Communications:

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information visit www.hightscross.com.

Safe Harbor Statement: This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential,” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties, and other factors may cause our actual results, performances, or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.
