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## **TWO LOCAL SCIENCE EDUCATORS HONORED FOR THEIR CREATIVITY USING HANDS-ON LEARNING**

*Ralph Miller and Irvin Lindsey think outside of the box when it comes to teaching science to local students*

Silicon Valley, CA August 22, 2011 – Resource Area for Teaching, RAFT, is honoring two Bay Area educators with their Hands-On Recognition Awards. Irvin Lindsey, who runs the Outdoor Science Education Program in Santa Cruz and Ralph Miller, who teaches at the Early Learning Center on the campus of Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont, are being recognized for their creative and outstanding work using hands-on activities to engage their students.

“We are happy to honor these two wonderful and inspiring teachers,” said Mary Simon, Executive Director of RAFT. “I am constantly amazed at the dedication and creativity our honorees bring to the classroom, whether it is inside or outside in nature. We are happy to be able to recognize and honor this important work done in educational settings of all kinds.”

Lindsey teaches more than 170 science classes a year, many in the outdoor natural surroundings of the Santa Cruz area. Miller, a former monster designer for the film industry, takes creativity to another level when teaching early learners about science. His preschool students are already conducting science experiments and learning about physics. Both are avid shoppers at RAFT. RAFT offers idea sheets, activity kits, raw materials, mentoring and workshops to educators in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Denver.

As Hands-On Recognition Award winners, each will receive two years of free RAFT membership and \$100 worth of RAFT Gift Cards. For more information about the Hands-On award program, go to <http://www.raft.net/public/pdfs/Hands-On-Award-application.pdf>.

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### **About RAFT**

RAFT is a non-profit organization that transforms the learning experience by providing educators – inside and outside of the classroom – with the materials, training and support they need to increase student engagement and achievement. RAFT serves over 10,000 members through its San Jose and Redwood City, CA locations, and Sacramento, CA and Denver, CO affiliates. RAFT creates hands-on project idea sheets and activity kits that engage pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> graders in interactive and collaborative projects with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). Assembled by volunteers from largely donated materials, RAFT activities impact over 825,000 students. For more information, visit [www.raft.net](http://www.raft.net).