



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAFT Unveils New Hands-On Learning Materials to Affordably Meet All of California's K-8 Science Education Standards

Hands-on Educational Materials for Each Grade Level will Better Engage Students and Keep Them Excited About Science

Silicon Valley, CA January 27, 2011 – Resource Area for Teaching, RAFT, is announcing the completion of their initiative to provide hands-on learning materials that meet and exceed California's science standards.

"Improving education by inspiring students and increasing their motivation to learn, along with supporting teacher excellence is a national priority," said Mary Simon, Executive Director of RAFT. "Our hands-on education materials help teachers engage and motivate their students to become the next generation of scientists and engineers. By aligning our idea sheets and activity kits to each of the state standards, teachers can now increase the amount of science activities they do in the classroom while meeting their curriculum requirements."

RAFT's educational team analyzed the requirements for each of California's 52 science content standards, and has systematically created affordable hands-on education activities that map to each one of them.

"We provide ideas, materials and one on one mentoring that give K-8 teachers new ways to meet science education requirements that they must teach at their grade level," said Greg Brown, Director of Education for RAFT. "Defining curriculum standards is important, but it's even more important to give teachers the tools they need to teach them. This helps both the teachers and the students to be successful."

In today's educational environment with tight school budgets, RAFT makes hands-on learning affordable to engage and motivate more students. Educators can purchase affordable activity kits at RAFT distribution centers in Redwood City and San Jose. Idea Sheets can be downloaded from www.RAFT.net. Schools can also partner with RAFT to create exciting science fairs and customized teacher workshops.

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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-12th 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.