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RAFT Hands-on Learning Model Promotes Achievement in Bay Area Schools

*Independent Research Study Shows that RAFT Hands-on Learning Activities
Engage Students and Improve Academic Performance*

San Jose, CA June 23, 2011 – Rockman Et Al, a respected education research firm, has just concluded a study demonstrating that RAFT's hands-on teaching materials help students gain subject knowledge, apply that knowledge to solve "real world" problems and improve their academic performance. The study was conducted in 17 Bay Area 5th and 6th grade classrooms comprised of students from diverse socio-economic, ethnic and language backgrounds. RAFT materials used in the study focused on important math concepts and are representative of RAFT hands-on education kits in general.

"Teachers have always agreed that RAFT's approach is effective in engaging and educating students," said Mary Simon, RAFT Executive Director. "This study took the next step, measuring the direct impact of RAFT kits on student learning. Kids in the study not only reported having an engaging experience, but they also increased their math skills as measured by questions similar to those on standardized achievement tests. In short, RAFT works!"

In addition to learning the subject matter, students also exhibited 21st Century skills such as teamwork, collaboration and persistence.

"These results show that RAFT's approach sparks interest and increases achievement for many types of students," said Greg Brown, RAFT Education Director. "Because RAFT kits use commonly available or donated materials and are assembled by volunteers, the kits are affordable. This makes it possible for educators to offer innovative and effective hands-on learning experiences, in and out of the classroom, from preschool to high school."

About RAFT

RAFT is a non-profit organization that transforms the learning experience by providing educators – in and out 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.

About Rockman Et Al

Rockman Et Al is an independent research and evaluation group that has worked on numerous educational and school reform efforts to change how students learn and how teachers teach.