

For more information contact:  
Julie Gates, public relations consultant  
For MIND Research Institute  
(562) 429-5972  
[jgatespr@yahoo.com](mailto:jgatespr@yahoo.com)

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES 70 ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE GRANTS FOR MATH PROGRAMS AND TEACHER TRAINING THIS FALL**

*MIND Research Institute, Orange County Department of Education, and local corporations' partner to invest in and improve students' math performance*

**SANTA ANA, CA, June 5, 2008** – The Orange County Math Initiative, a local community partnership, announced that it awarded 70 Orange County schools grants that will provide math instructional software and teacher training starting this fall. The Initiative is a new 5-year community partnership between the non-profit education researcher and publisher MIND Research Institute, Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and local corporate supporters such as Microsemi Corporation, the CEO of American Fund Services John Phalen and his wife Sherry, Advanced Medical Optics, and The Boeing Company. Orange County corporations are funding the partnership to meet their future needs for employees who are proficient in the skills needed to be effective and functional in the workforce.

This fall, the Orange County Math Initiative, will benefit struggling students at 70 schools in the Santa Ana, Anaheim City, Magnolia, Cypress, Orange, Westminster, Capistrano, La Habra, Placentia-Yorba Linda, and Newport-Mesa school districts.

In the course of five years, there's potential for over 100,000 students to be impacted with hundreds of teachers applying visual techniques to teach math using the research-proven, math instructional software from MIND Research.

"The Orange County Math Initiative project gets it right!" said Bill Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools. "The Orange County Department of Education is proud to be a collaborative partner in this great program. It will make a huge difference in our schools. Math scores go up with the MIND Research approach and students love the program."

Last night, Habermehl; Ted Smith, chairman of MIND's Board of Directors; Dave Horowitz of The Horowitz Group; and Marc Levin of Levin Capital Management, spoke to community leaders including corporate executives, school district superintendents, and city mayors at a private reception hosted by Latham & Watkins to gain further support and discuss the importance of the program. Dr. Matthew Peterson, Co-founder and Senior Scientist, MIND Research, also shared with the group plans for future development of math curriculum and instructional software.

(more)

“Microsemi joins a cadre of companies that support the Orange County Math Initiative,” said Jim Peterson, CEO, Microsemi Corporation. “I have been personally supporting the development of the MIND Research program since 2004, serve on its board, and will be a member of the oversight Council that will administer the \$10 million, five-year project. We have developed a paradigm shift for math education in this country, and the Math Initiative will become a model for other communities to follow in the coming years.”

“Local industry has a serious problem with the need for young adults throughout the workforce to arrive with math skills. These corporations recognize the severity of the issue and the potential impact it can have on our County’s economy,” said Ted Smith, Chairman of MIND Research Institute’s Board of Directors. “Roughly half of our students in Orange County and California are not proficient in math. The Orange County Math Initiative represents the community working together, with teachers and principals, to help elevate students’ math achievement. More corporations are encouraged to join the program.”

In February, the Orange County Math Initiative invited 164 elementary, middle and high schools throughout Orange County currently in the lower rankings of California’s Academic Performance Index to apply to participate. All qualified schools that applied for the program will be funded, up to the limits of money raised. The funding for each school is for five years beginning with the 2008/09 school year and will pay for: math instructional software, training and support, Professional Development for selected teachers, and a student results evaluation report administered by OCDE and UC Irvine professionals.

For information about any of MIND Research Institute’s programs or the Orange County Math Initiative, call 888-751-5443 or visit MIND’s website at <http://www.mindresearch.net>.

## **MIND Research Institute Background**

---

The MIND Research Institute is a non-profit education researcher and publisher. MIND uses its distinctive visual approach to illustrating math concepts and building problem-solving skills as the basis for innovative, research-proven math education programs for elementary and secondary schools. The programs include the ST Math™: K-5 patent-pending instructional software for all K-5 students, ST Math™: Algebra Readiness instructional software for intervention at the secondary level, and a complete Algebra Readiness course with a fully-featured textbook and integrated software for secondary schools. The visual approach featured in each program taps into each student’s innate ability to do spatial-temporal (ST) reasoning and problem-solving, and is effective at engaging students at all levels of language and academic proficiency. There are currently over 300 schools in California, Texas and 13 other states, and more than 59,000 students and 3,500 teachers participating in the program.