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ASSET Inc. Receives Grant from the Buhl Foundation to Support R&D for New Science Coaches and ASSET 4 Math Programs

PITTSBURGH – ASSET Inc. (Achieving Student Success through Excellence in Teaching) received a \$50,000 grant from the Buhl Foundation and the Henry C. Frick Educational Fund of the Buhl Foundation as part of the foundation’s philanthropic funding program. The grant provides support for the introduction of two new programs, Learning Pathways for Cognitive Science Coaches and ASSET 4 Math, and allows ASSET to continue working toward its mission to improve teaching and learning.

The Cognitive Science Coaches and ASSET 4 Math programs will focus on developing rigorous teacher professional development aligned with standards-based, hands-on curriculum materials to help teachers improve the teaching and learning of science and mathematics.

“International assessments continue to indicate that U.S. student performance in science is challenged,” said Dr. Helen Sobehart, executive director at ASSET Inc. “However, independent evaluations of ASSET’s programs continue to show significant improvements in student achievement. ASSET is committed to cultivating early student interest and success in STEM-related studies. ASSET’s Cognitive Science Coaches and ASSET 4 Math programs are just two of the ways ASSET is making a difference.”

Most recently, through a commissioned study of student achievement on the 2007-08 and 2008-09 PSSAs, ASSET 4th-graders scored statistically significantly higher than students in demographically similar comparison schools in science, and significantly higher in math and reading.

About ASSET

ASSET Inc. (Achieving Student Success through Excellence in Teaching) is an education improvement nonprofit that provides teacher professional development and hands-on curriculum materials for elementary and middle schools. Established in 1994 by Bayer Corporation and several community partners, ASSET initially received substantial funding from the National Science Foundation. Today, ASSET has achieved sustainability as a fee-for-service organization with ongoing support from local and national foundations and corporate partners. In 2006, ASSET was selected to manage Pennsylvania’s *Science: It’s Elementary* (SIE) initiative in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. SIE has garnered national attention from President Barack Obama, who singled out the program “as an example of a state taking steps to encourage inquiry-based science statewide.” ASSET also has earned acclaim from the National Science Resources Center, a joint project of the National Academies and the Smithsonian Institution, as a “model for the nation.” ASSET currently impacts 180 school districts, 5,000 teachers and 142,000 students in charter, private and resource challenged schools. For more information, visit www.assetinc.org.

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ACHIEVING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

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