

For immediate release  
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## ASSET Hires New Professional Development Staff Members

PITTSBURGH – (January 25, 2008) – ASSET (Achieving Student Success through Excellence in Teaching) Inc. is pleased to announce the following full-time ASSET Professional Development staff hired for the 2007-08 school year:

- Deborah Spencer, ASSET Program Manager, former Science/Technology Coordinator at Farmington Woods I.B.P.Y.P. Elementary School in Cary, N.C.
- Carolyn Adams, Content Specialist Coordinator, former principal at Southmoreland High School

ASSET Professional Development Facilitators:

- Jacob McBride, University of Pittsburgh graduate
- Susan Emmett, formerly of Lewisville Independent School District in Lewisville, TX
- Sarah Lawentmann, formerly of Propel Schools
- Staceylyn Machi, formerly a substitute at Baldwin, Keystone Oaks, Mt. Lebanon and Wilkinsburg.
- Stephanie Rakowski, formerly of North Hills School District
- Jessica Rock, formerly of the PA Game Commission at the Wildlife Learning Center
- Emily Sasko, California University of Pennsylvania graduate
- Kristy Zelenz, formerly of Propel Schools

ASSET Professional Development Facilitators provide professional development in the form of courses, institutes, conferences, peer coaching, mentoring and study groups to approximately 1,800 teachers in western Pennsylvania each year. These teachers will also deliver professional development to teachers across Pennsylvania as part of Governor Rendell's initiative *Science: It's Elementary* in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### About ASSET Inc.:

ASSET (Achieving Student Success through Excellence in Teaching) Inc. is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to continuously improve teaching and student learning, with an initial focus on K-8 science education. Established in 1994 by Bayer Corporation and several community partners, ASSET also received substantial funding from the National Science Foundation. Today, ASSET has achieved sustainability as a fee-for-service organization with ongoing support from several local and national foundations and corporate partners. ASSET currently serves more than 160 school districts, charter and private schools impacting 4,400 teachers and 180,000 students across Pennsylvania.

### About Science: It's Elementary (SIE):

Through a \$13.5 million appropriation in the FY 2007-08 state budget, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is partnering with ASSET Inc. to improve elementary science education statewide. During 2007-08, SIE is providing 2,600 teachers with high-quality professional development and standards-based science materials to increase student achievement in science education for approximately 59,000 students in 121 school districts across 47 counties.

For more information on ASSET Inc., visit [www.assetinc.org](http://www.assetinc.org) or call 412-481-7320.