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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ascend Math honors Spring 2010 Gold Medal Winner**

(Denver, CO) Ascend Education held a breakfast in honor of the 2010 Ascend Math Gold Medal winner, Banks Stephens Middle School, at the ISTE Conference in Denver, Colorado. Sandy Metts, Math Instructional Coach, and Ronnie Shipman, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, represented Banks Stephens Middle School at the breakfast. Ms. Metts and Mr. Shipman presented the outstanding results of their students who utilized Ascend Math. These results included an 11% increase in 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who achieved Level III on the CRCT, the Georgia high stakes test. Mr. Shipman challenged his students that if all of them passed the math portion of the CRCT, then he would shave his head. Ascend Math was pleased to welcome Mr. Shipman with a little less hair than normal, since all of his 7<sup>th</sup> grade students passed the CRCT test. Dr. Mike Hickman, principal at Banks Stephens Middle School, stated "I am proud of the hard work of our students and teachers and their resulting success. The Ascend Gold Medal award is a well deserved award for all of their efforts and we look forward to more success with Ascend Math in the future."

Banks Stephens Middle School, a Nationally Recognized Distinguished Title I School, was elected as the winner of the Gold Medal program by other Ascend Math schools from around the country. Other applicants and results include

**Aspen Valley High School Colorado** - achieved an increase from 0% to 26% of students achieving proficiency on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test over the last three years while using Ascend Math.

**Brazosport ISD Texas** – Brazosport ISD adopted Ascend Math District Wide. At Brazosport High School, 60% of students achieved gains of 1 ½ grade levels or more during 4 months on Ascend. 38% of students advanced 2 or more grade levels during the same time frame.

**Calcasieu Parish Schools, Louisiana** – In a random sample of 100 of the 800 students who utilized Ascend Math, 73% of their at-risk math students passed math with a grade of C or better.

**Douglas High School, Wyoming** – Math Scores increased 30%.

**Oxford Hills Middle School, Maine** – Math Scores grew 18% on average. The school is no longer on the AYP list.

**Montgomery Junior High, Texas** - In 8th grade, 29 out of 36 at-risk students (84%) met expectations on the Texas state assessment. Of the twenty-nine students that met expectations, eleven were students with disabilities.

**Shelbyville High School, Illinois** - Student gains on Ascend post test versus pre test averaged 48.4%. Shelbyville High School utilized Ascend Math to meet Tier II and Tier III objectives.

“We attribute the amazing gains of our students to the hard work and vision of the educators in their schools and we are proud of the role Ascend Math plays in bridging critical gaps in math achievement,” states Kevin Briley, CEO of Ascend Education. “We welcome Banks Stephens Middle School and look forward to working with other schools with our on-going Gold Medal Program.” The Ascend Math Gold Medal program is an ongoing program offered to recognize the success of schools utilizing Ascend Math.

**About Banks Stephens Middle School.** Banks Stephens Middle School, located in Forsyth, Georgia is a Nationally Recognized Title School and was honored at the National Title I Conference in San Antonio in 2009. The mission of Banks Stephens Middle School is “To establish a strong foundation by challenging our students to achieve their maximum potential as productive citizens in society.”

<http://monroe.ga.schoolwebpages.com/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=9882&>

**About Ascend Math.** Ascend Math is an online math instructional resource. Ascend addresses multiple learning modalities by delivering video instruction, student-centered concept explorations, interactive practice with immediate feedback and opportunities for re-teaching, and printable resources. Ascend offers a fully automated solution, to reduce the demands on teachers’ time. The Ascend approach supports improved math achievement regardless of students’ reading levels, so that it can provide important support for ESE, ESOL and other students with special needs, thanks to the program’s video, audio, and multimedia components. Study plans align by grade level to National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards, Core Curriculum and state standards. Instruction is delivered in a logical math sequence and students can progress at their own pace, tracking their own progress and success. The Ascend Math Solution is currently in hundreds of schools and districts serving tens of thousands of students throughout the United States and Canada. An online interactive demo of the program and additional information are available at [www.ascendmath.com](http://www.ascendmath.com)

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