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NEWS RELEASE

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Regional Summer School of Excellence Collaborates with Higher Education, Business and Industry to Highlight Career Paths

Johnstown, PA (April 26, 2010) – For the fourth consecutive year, The Learning Lamp Academy of Arts & Sciences has been named a Pennsylvania Department of Education Regional Summer School of Excellence—one of only 15 such programs in the state. New this year, in addition to the University of Pittsburgh as its primary educational partner, The Learning Lamp has added collaborations that include hands-on instruction from local businesses and economic development organizations.

“The 2010 Academy of Arts & Sciences targets children with tremendous potential to follow any number of career paths in life. Some may excel in science. Others have a head for numbers or possess an exceptional entrepreneurial spirit. Still more have a talent for technology and the arts,” explained Heidi Rizkalla, director of education at The Learning Lamp. “As a Regional Summer School of Excellence, our academy will provide real-world opportunities for young people just beginning to think about their futures to learn from professionals in fields of interest to them.”

The 2010 Academy of Arts & Sciences features week-long sessions in:

- Interviewing, writing, layout, and design of an e-newspaper in partnership with The Tribune-Democrat (**Roving Reporters – July 12-16, GJCTC**)
- study of the earth, natural disasters, underwater geography, and GPS technology in partnership with Pitt-Johnstown (**Earth Adventure – July 19 – 23 @ Pitt-Johnstown**)
- digital photography and editing in partnership with a professional photographer (**Picture Perfect – July 26 – 30 @ GJCTC**)
- virtual and hands-on design and destruction of two and three-dimensional structures in partnership with Pitt-Johnstown (**August 2 -6 @ Pitt-Johnstown**)
- visualization, design, and the creation of sequencing content for students’ own virtual video games in partnership with a local firm of software designers and engineers (**Game On! – August 9 – 13 @ GJCTC**)

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The official registration and financial information of The Learning Lamp may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free with in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. The Learning Lamp is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- idea development, business plans, marketing, financing, staffing and the trials, errors, and successes of starting a business in partnership with Johnstown Area Regional Industries.
(The Apprentice – June 28 – July 2 @ JARI Center for Business Development)

“Our goal is to introduce young people to entrepreneurship and to help them acquire the knowledge, skills and resources needed to be a successful entrepreneur. This program will encourage students to be innovative thinkers and to use their imagination and creativity to prepare ideas for tomorrow’s businesses,” said Debi Balog, director of Workforce Development at JARI.

The Learning Lamp Academy of Arts and Sciences targets students entering grades 6 – 9 from Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties. Applications, which include a brief student essay, are currently being accepted. Scholarships are available for income-eligible students. The Learning Lamp’s middle school-aged camps are part of a larger summer program that provides 11 full weeks of science- and arts-centered activities for children in grades PreK-12 at multiple sites in Cambria and Westmoreland Counties.

For more information, call 814-262-0732 or visit The Learning Lamp online at www.thelearninglamp.org.