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News Release

For Immediate Release

Lexia Reading Software Cited by Forbes Magazine as a Revolution in Student Assessment

Business experts who authored the new book *Disrupting Class* discuss how Lexia reflects their industry shaping ideas on education

CONCORD, MA, Sept. 24, 2008 – Educational publisher Lexia Learning Systems, Inc., announced that its *Lexia Reading™* software was featured in *Forbes Magazine* as a "revolution" in student assessment. Three business experts who authored the new book, *Disrupting Class*, discussed in the Sept. 15 issue of *Forbes* how Lexia caught their attention and reflects their industry-shaping ideas on education technology. The article focuses on assessment in schools and is titled "Creative Disruption: Teaching to the New Test," by renowned Harvard Business School professor, Clayton Christensen, and his colleagues, Michael B. Horn and Curtis Johnson. In the article, they predict that innovative technology will change the U.S. classroom model to more student-centered learning, and will change the role and methodologies of student assessment. The article cites *Lexia Reading* for grades preK-12 as a strong example of a software program that provides real-time assessment to improve students' learning. It can be read online at <http://www.forbes.com/claytonchristensen/forbes/2008/0915/081.html>.

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“When students learn through student-centered online technology, assessment and individualized assistance can be interactive and woven into the instruction rather than tacked on at the end of the process,” said author Michael Horn. “Lexia Learning Systems, a reading-software company in Concord, Mass., provides an example of the power of this approach.”

Over 10,000 schools in many school districts have incorporated *Lexia Reading* and achieved notable reading success, including Hall County Schools in Gainesville, GA (also highlighted in the Forbes article) and Ennis Independent School District in Ennis, TX. Lexia Learning Systems’ software, *Lexia Reading*, continuously assesses a student’s skill level and understanding as students complete its educational reading activities on a computer. During all lessons, the student practices a skill as the program simultaneously assesses how well the student understands the concept. If the student demonstrates mastery, he/she moves forward. If the concept is not understood, the software backtracks and systematically teases out the exact area of weakness and provides additional practice before moving on. Immediately during each session, the software updates and generates reports informing teachers and administrators of individual student skill level and areas in need of additional instruction.

“We know from feedback from teachers and administrators that *Lexia Reading’s* built-in assessment and reporting features are valuable diagnostic tools that help teachers uncover and support student weaknesses and aid in lesson planning and differentiating instruction,” said Nick Gaehde, president of Lexia Learning Systems, Inc. “To be recognized by Christensen, Horn and Johnson and to be cited as an example of the future of education in *Forbes* is additional validation for our product and mission.”

About *Lexia Reading*:

Lexia Reading, launched in September 2007 is a web-enabled, Lexia-hosted version of Lexia Learning Systems reading software. The culmination of years of reading research and technical development, *Lexia Reading* includes three proven *Lexia Reading* titles - Early Reading, Primary Reading, and Strategies

for Older Students - and a newly enhanced management system with extensive reporting features.

Lexia Reading's management system generates powerful, comprehensive reports. Superintendents, administrators and teachers can instantly and easily monitor students' skill levels, progress and usage on an individual, class, or school basis from on-site or remote locations. Teachers can use reports to differentiate individual instruction, identify students in need of additional support and assign independent, targeted skills activities.

Lexia Reading supports students in the three-tier Response to Intervention (RtI) model of reading instruction. Now with *Lexia Reading's* district access program, district-wide reporting and volume pricing are available for an additional fee. Administrators can use the critical information derived from Lexia's new reporting capabilities to drive decision-making and to make sure no child is left behind, ensuring that their schools and district meet adequate yearly progress guidelines.

About the Authors:

The *Forbes Magazine* article is based on the recently published, nationally-acclaimed book, *Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns*. Renowned Harvard Business School professor, Clayton Christensen, and his colleagues, Michael B. Horn and Curtis Johnson, apply the theories of disruptive innovation to the current U.S. public education system in the book. Through their in-depth analysis, they predict that the monolithic U.S. public classroom model will be changed or “disrupted” by technological innovations that offer students individualized instruction that matches their intelligence types and learning paces from any location. Christensen et al predict that as education shifts to more student-centered learning, changes will take place in student assessment. Instead of testing children at the end of a unit to assess how much information they have absorbed and then requiring them to move to the next unit regardless of their test score, assessment will occur in real-time as a way to determine an individual’s learning needs and level. The authors argue that traditional classroom testing as we know it will become obsolete.

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Clayton M. Christensen is the Robert and Jane Cizik Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School. He is author and coauthor of five books including the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Innovator's Dilemma* and *The Innovator's Solution*.

Michael B. Horn is a cofounder and an executive director of Innosight Institute. He holds an AB from Yale and an MBA from Harvard.

Curtis W. Johnson is a writer and consultant who has served as a college president, head of a public policy research organization, and chief of staff to governor Arne Carlson of Minnesota. Johnson and his colleagues were among the early proponents of what has become the chartered school movement.

Lexia Learning Systems, Inc., (www.lexialearning.com) headquartered in Concord, Massachusetts, is one of the best-known and most highly-respected reading software companies in the world. *Lexia Reading* software supports reading skills development in students at all levels of ability, Pre-K to Adult. Today, Lexia's programs are used in over 10,000 schools, adult education center, and tutoring centers as a supplement to reading instruction. Over one million students have successfully learned to read with *Lexia Reading* software.

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