



News Release

SABIS® contact:
Mr. Udo Schulz
VP of Business Development
uschulz@sabis.net
(952) 918-1850

Ascend Learning contact:
Lisa O'Brien
Coldwell Communications
lisa@coldwellgroup.com
(518) 859-6000

SABIS® Signs Licensing Agreement with Ascend Learning *New college-preparatory charter school in Brooklyn, New York first to tap into the SABIS® Education System*

EDEN PRAIRIE, MN and NEW YORK, NY, November 5, 2007. Steven F. Wilson, founder and CEO of the non-profit charter school management organization, Ascend Learning, Inc., recently signed a licensing agreement with SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc., a global education management company that develops and operates K-12 schools in 14 countries around the world. Through the agreement, Ascend will tap into the power of SABIS's dynamic education system in its college-preparatory charter schools in New York City and other northeastern cities.

SABIS® and Wilson initiated discussions about the joint venture following the 2006 publication of Wilson's book on privately managed public schools, *Learning on the Job* (Harvard University Press). SABIS® and Wilson's shared goal is to dramatically improve the educational opportunities available to economically disadvantaged students in the northeastern United States. Under the licensing agreement, Ascend will make use of SABIS® products and services as it establishes and operates new urban charter schools. The schools, "Powered by SABIS®," will draw on all aspects of the SABIS® Educational System, including books, curriculum, methodologies, exams, and technological tools. Students will build a solid academic foundation that prepares them for success in college and beyond.

"We are confident that this licensing agreement marks the start of a lasting relationship that will couple the strengths of SABIS® with the knowledge and experience of Steven Wilson," stated SABIS® President, Mr. Carl Bistany. He went on to say: "In combining the successful SABIS® Education System with non-profit Ascend Learning schools, students in the Northeast US will be able to receive a high-quality, college-preparatory education in a safe and structured environment."

This month New York City schools Chancellor Joel Klein recommended that the state Board of Regents approve Ascend's first school, the Brooklyn Ascend Charter School. Scheduled to open in fall 2008 in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community of Brooklyn, the school will ultimately enroll 1,180 students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Additional Ascend Learning schools will open in subsequent years of the agreement.

“SABIS's Educational System is a decade ahead of anything else available,” said Steven Wilson. “It has proved capable of sending virtually every student—regardless of socioeconomic background—to college. This is our goal for our own schools. We are thrilled to be working in partnership with SABIS®.”

For more information on SABIS® or Ascend Learning, visit www.sabis.net or www.ascendlearning.org.

###