



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Everybody Wins! DC and Capital IIT Alumni Association Sign  
Historic Memorandum of Understanding**

WASHINGTON, DC ( February 26, 2009) – Everybody Wins! DC and the Capital IIT Alumni Association signed a historic agreement yesterday evening that will result in an innovative reading exchange program for underprivileged students in India and the District of Columbia. The joint endeavor spans two continents and provides low-income students with enhanced educational opportunities.

The joint partnership will bring low-income students in Washington, DC and India together via the use of technologies to promote shared learning experiences through an innovative reading exchange program. The Capital IIT Alumni Association further demonstrated their commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the youth of the District of Columbia by agreeing to donate 1,000 hours of volunteer service that includes mentoring elementary school students through Everybody Wins! DC's Power Lunch program; speaking with youth leaders through the Readers Are Leaders program regarding high-level career opportunities in technology, math and science; as well as coordinating technologies to facilitate the cross-continental reading exchange program. Capital IIT donated \$1,000 to launch the partnership.

Everybody Wins! DC was represented at the signing by Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA), Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia Dr. Natwar Gandhi and Everybody Wins! DC's Executive Director Mary Salander.

“We are honored to partner with the members of Capital IIT and the Indian community. By working together, this agreement has the potential to change the lives of students around the globe. These new opportunities will lift a number of children out of poverty by encouraging greater literacy skills and improved self esteem.” explained EW!DC Executive Director Mary Salander.

*About the Capital IIT Alumni Association*

The Indian Institute of Technology or IIT is one of the premiere science, technology, engineering and math universities in the world. The Association started in the greater

Washington, DC, region in February 1999 as a forum for IIT alumni to meet and socialize. However, the association grew and other regions around the country had similar initiatives that eventually morphed into the PanIIT Alumni Association. Today, Capital IIT has over 600 members in the Maryland, Virginia and DC area – all alumni of the IIT system. Likewise, PanIIT, North America has more than 50,000 members.

In 2003, the CBS show *60 Minutes* ran a special segment calling the IIT selection standards as being among the most challenging in the world. They highlighted how IIT graduates have created many successful businesses such as Sun Microsystems, Infosys, HCL, Juniper Networks and Google. Today, anecdotally, 60% of all Silicon Valley startups have at least one IIT graduate in the founder ranks. Many major U.S. and international companies are headed by IIT alumni. Examples of this include the Hartford Financial, Citigroup, Rohm and Haas, and Chevron.

In 2005, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution (HR 227 – see copy attached) to honor the contributions made by graduates of the IIT system to the US economy. This was the first time such an honor was conferred on any university system. Congressman Tom Davis was the main sponsor for this resolution.

#### *About Everybody Wins! DC*

EW!DC provides children's mentoring and literacy programs to more than 4,000 students annually at 36 Title I public elementary schools in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The mission of EW!DC is to pair students with Reading Mentors to instill a love of reading and learning and foster a sense of self-esteem. The ideas behind our mission remain simple and straightforward, yet can bring about profound change in the lives of young students: expose children to great literature, give them a positive role model, inspire them to read, and you will make a difference in their lives.

The Power Lunch program links eager young minds with caring adults, who give an hour of their time each week to read and talk with children over lunch throughout the school year.

The Readers Are Leaders (peer mentoring) program matches older students with younger ones at Title I public elementary schools in the District of Columbia. The pairs meet for one-on-one reading during the lunch hour on a weekly basis throughout the school year. The Readers Are Leaders Program pairs K, 1st and 2nd grade students with 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students from the same Title I public schools. The program includes leadership trainings for the older students.

To learn more about how your firm or company can participate in the Power Lunch Program, please contact Vinny Hughes, Operations Manager, at 202.347.9467 ext 17 or [vhughes@everybodywinsdc.org](mailto:vhughes@everybodywinsdc.org).

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