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News Release

Spy Hop Production's iDEA & Local Elementary School Selected to Participate in 2007 Microsoft US Innovative Teachers Forum

*MICROSOFT EDUCATION PROGRAM RECOGNIZES AND REWARDS EXEMPLARY LEARNING TEAMS
DEMONSTRATING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS*

Salt Lake City, UT – September 25, 2007

After learning from Spy Hop Productions' iDEA program, teachers from Washington Elementary School were selected from a national pool of candidates to participate in the 2007 Microsoft US Innovative Teachers Forum. One of a series of regional events hosted by Microsoft around the world, the forums are designed to recognize and reward outstanding examples of educators collaborating and sharing expertise to build collective knowledge.

In the spring of 2006, the Spy Hop educational staff took their "best practices" learned in out-of-school settings and collaborated with the Utah State Office of Education to found the *Interactive Digital Education Academy* (iDEA). In intensive one-week professional development settings, K-12 educators and principals learn to integrate the digital filmmaking process into their core curriculum through this program.

Rewarded through this partnership, the educators of Washington Elementary and the iDEA Program Director were one of twenty learning teams invited to the US Forum. In recognition for their outstanding efforts Microsoft will pay for their travel to the Microsoft Corporate Campus in Redmond, Washington, to participate in the event on September 27th and 28th. A subset of U.S. Forum participants will be selected as ambassadors for the United States at the worldwide Microsoft Innovative Teachers Forum in Helsinki, Finland, in October 2007.

Since 2002 the Microsoft Innovative Teachers program has connected a community of educators who share a common interest in enhancing teaching and learning through the use of technology. The program provides classroom learning and professional development resources, and recognizes and rewards teachers who demonstrate exemplary use of technology in the classroom, with their peers, and for their own professional development and productivity.

For more information on the Interactive Digital Education Academy (iDEA), please visit:

<http://www.spyhop.org/programs-idea.html>

For more information on the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Program, please visit:

www.microsoft.com/education/innovativeteachers.aspx

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts education center, and provides out-of-school programs in the documentary arts, film/video production, audio engineering, and interactive media.