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SIIA Praises Bush Administration's Announcement of an Interagency Working Group on Advanced Technologies for Education and Training

Anaheim, CA – October 23, 2003 – The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) today praised the Bush Administration for its launch of an Interagency Working Group on Advanced Technologies for Education and Training.

"We appreciate the vision of President Bush and his National Science and Technology Council in recognizing the need for this initiative and providing the leadership to identify and overcome various barriers that may prevent all Americans from taking full advantage of technology in education," said Ken Wasch, President of SIIA.

The initiative was announced at the National School Boards Association Technology & Learning (T+L) Conference by U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology Phillip J. Bond and the U.S. Department of Education's Director of Educational Technology John Bailey. SIIA leaders were invited to join these task force co-chairs after the announcement for a town hall forum with education leaders.

SIIA Education Division Vice President Karen Billings had made a presentation at the Summit on the Use of Advanced Technologies in Education and Training, hosted by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans in September, 2002. The new Working Group builds on that Summit, where Billings addressed invited leaders from industry, education and research. She highlighted the efforts of SIIA members to provide needed technology tools – educational software, electronic curricular materials and related educational technologies – while also outlining various market, regulatory and other barriers that must be overcome.

"The Interagency Working Group is a logical next step from the Summit," said Billings. "On behalf of our member publishers and developers, we look forward to working with the Administration and all stake holders to better leverage the federal government's research, investment and regulatory arms toward enhancing development and adoption of advanced educational technologies."

SIIA has long been a leader in the area of education technology. It aims to help member companies address various technical, market and regulatory barriers as well as help policy makers and educators better understand how to integrate technology into the teaching and learning process.

SIIA recently submitted recommendations to help guide the U.S. Department of Education's National Technology Plan, highlighting several areas where the federal government can play a role. More info: http://www.sii.net/govt/NationalEdTechPlanRecommendations_July03.pdf.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 600 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit <http://www.sii.net>. SIIA's Education Division provides the leadership, advocacy and information necessary to promote the success of education technology and educational providers. For further information, visit <http://www.sii.net/divisions/education>.

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