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Johns Hopkins University's Talent Development High Schools and ScholarCentric Partner to Implement Resiliency Assessment and Curriculum for 9th graders

Union to Promote Academic Resiliency and Contribute to Decreasing Nation's Dropout Rate

DENVER—November 16, 2009—The Johns Hopkins Center for Social Organization of Schools' successful innovation, the Talent Development High Schools (TDHS), is implementing *Success Highways* during Freshman Seminar class in schools in Chicago, Baltimore and New Orleans.

Initiated in 1994, the TDHS comprehensive reform model is designed to help large high schools that face serious problems with student attendance, discipline, achievement scores and dropout rates. The model incorporates specific changes in school organization and management to establish a strong, positive school climate for learning, as well as curricular and instructional innovations to prepare all students for high-level courses. As part of this mission, Dr. Robert Balfanz, Research Scientist and TDHS Director, has chosen to include the *Success Highways* program as part of Freshman Seminar class in hopes of providing 9th grade students with the critical social emotional skills they need for academic success. Quote from Bob.

Success Highways, a research-based program that includes assessment, curriculum and professional development, is designed to help students develop critical resiliency skills. The program—produced out of more than 15 years of research at the University of Wisconsin—focuses on helping students to build academic confidence, motivation, and connections to educators, as well as the ability to set goals, manage stress, and maintain a balanced sense of well-being. All of these resiliency skills have been shown to have a significant, positive impact on attendance, academic achievement and graduation rates. *Success Highways* is used by more than 20,000 students who face multiple life challenges and are mostly from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

The partnership will include a full implementation in Chicago and Baltimore TDHS, where more than 300 ninth graders will participate in the program as part of their freshman seminar course. Additionally, over 400 students in the New Orleans TDHS will be assessed using the *Success Highways* Revving Up Resiliency assessments to test if they can inform teacher/team interventions.

“We’re absolutely honored to partner with Johns Hopkins University to implement *Success Highways* with Talent Development High Schools,” said Steve Weigler, ScholarCentric President and CEO. “Both organizations share the same vision of increasing graduation rates and giving students the tools to overcome challenges.”

For more information on the TDHS model, visit <http://web.jhu.edu/CSOS/tdhs/index.html>.

Educational publisher ScholarCentric focuses on providing students with the critical social emotional skills they need to tackle a rigorous academic curriculum and succeed in their future endeavors. Founder, Steven Weigler, began working with Dr. V. Scott Solberg and his team from the University of Wisconsin to take research findings and proven strategies and make them available to schools nationwide as the *Success Highways* program. Their mission is to offer validated assessments, proven teacher instructional materials and comprehensive professional development that improve school attendance, academic

performance and graduation rates. For more information about ScholarCentric, visit www.scholarcentric.com.

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