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PRESS RELEASE

Digital Motion Picture Graphics Lab Unveiled at Local Charter School

New Orleans, LA – On August 3, 2009, Algiers Technology Academy (ATA), a charter high school under the jurisdiction of the Algiers Charter Schools Association (ACSA) and the SIGGRAPH 2009 conference outreach program will unveil a new state-of-the-art student computer graphics lab at ATA. This lab will allow students to learn how to effectively make animations and motion pictures, using the premier motion picture-making software *Maya*, an Autodesk product. The computers for the lab were donated by Walt Disney Animation Studios and the software was donated by Autodesk.

“Our students at ATA will learn to make animations and movies, just like production staff in Hollywood. This will equip these students with a unique set of professional skills as they matriculate and become professionals,” said Andrew West, ACSA’s Information Technology Manager.

Special Interest Group on GRAPHics and Interactive Techniques (SIGGRAPH) is an annual national conference on computer graphics convened by the AMC SIGGRAPH organization. Since 1974, the conference has been attended by tens of thousands of computer graphics professionals. SIGGRAPH 2009 will be held in New Orleans, LA from August 3, 2009 through August 7, 2009. Approximately 30,000 attendees will enjoy exhibitions, workshops on gaming and software, competitions, and hands-on experiences. SIGGRAPH has invited fifty (50) ATA students to attend the conference with a SIGGRAPH mentor.



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In June 2009 SIGGRAPH announced plans to give back to the New Orleans community and listed the ATA Digital Motion Picture Graphics Lab design as part of their SIGGRAPH 2009+1 Outreach program. This program gives people around the globe opportunities to give back through a series of partnerships with local organizations. These outreach efforts focuses on helping to educate local youth about enriching careers in technology and creative arts with a long term goal of strengthening the community as a whole by investing in this next generation.

ATA, SIGGRAPH 2009, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Autodesk, Dreamworks Animation, and the George Lucas Foundation began designing the graphics lab earlier this year. The lab will have nearly fifty (50) graphic computers, peripherals, and ergonomic seating. Students will be taught by a graphics design and digital arts instructor and will produce motion pictures in the classroom.

For more information on the SIGGRAPH 2009 national conference, visit www.siggraph.org/s2009.

Algiers Technology Academy

ATA was founded in August 2007 under the ACSA. ATA follows the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum with a focus on technology. It is one of 34 New Technology Foundation (NTF) high schools in the United States. ATA promotes the NTF philosophy of utilizing project-based learning to prepare students in grades 9 through 12 to function well in the 21st century. ATA addresses the needs of the individual student and implements the grade-level expectations for each course as recommended by the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure student eligibility for TOPS upon graduation. It also uses techniques and material in line with the National Education Technology Standards.

ATA is located at 6501 Berkley Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131. For more information on Algiers Technology Academy, visit www.algierstechnologyacademy.org.

Algiers Charter Schools Association

The ACSA is a non-profit charter school management organization. In conjunction with the Orleans Parish School Board, the ACSA has elected to establish charter schools to address the needs of families living on the West Bank and East Bank of New Orleans. The ACSA is led by a seven member Board of Trustees.



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The ACSA is working to make the schools within the association free from the burdens of conventional education structures, and that each school is open by choice to all students without admissions tests, is not religiously affiliated, and have high accountability standards.

The Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum serves as the basis of the ACSA's instructional program, but the principals of ACSA schools are able to develop a course of study for their schools that best suits the needs of their students. It is the long term vision that each school develops a personality of its own and a specialty area of instruction.

ACSA operates nine schools in Algiers: Algiers Technology Academy, Martin Behrman Charter Academy for Creative Arts and Sciences, Dwight D. Eisenhower Academy of Global Studies, William J. Fischer Accelerated Academy, Alice M. Harte Charter School, Edna Karr Charter High School, McDonogh #32 Literacy Charter School, Harriet Ross Tubman Charter School, and O. Perry Walker College and Career Preparatory High School and Community Center.

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