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College Unbound partners with the CN to Create a New Experience: Student-Centered Online Learning

Providence, R.I. (February 27, 2013) – What happens when you take one of the most innovative and experienced thinkers in education and pair him with one of the most brilliant and pioneering developers of social learning technology? Answer: A whole new way to look at higher education for adult learners.

While most online colleges offer a textbook based education, complete with multiple choice tests, College Unbound has been leading the charge for student-centered Bachelor's Degrees. Students focus their work around their workplace and career field. Then they develop projects that help them go deeper, research issues and incorporate 21st century skills like problem solving, collaboration, creativity and resilience.

"College Unbound starts with the student--his or her interests, experiences, and passion for learning," said College Unbound Director and founder Dennis Littky. "[CourseNetworking] the CN allows College Unbound students to get the maximum benefit of peer to peer learning, tap into expertise from workplace mentors and develop rigorous project work through constant connection with faculty."

Most online learning platforms only help colleges deliver assignments and receive student work and tests; the CN is different. Using the premise of social learning, the CN allows students to engage in a robust world-wide community of learners. Students can collaborate, contribute ideas to the projects of others, post their work and receive feedback from peers, faculty and mentors.

"Coursenetworking, as a conceptual model, not only supports course management, but also generates new learning opportunities that build on the foundation of social networking. Drawing from the limitless Internet, the course networking model generates massive resources to support expansive and student-driven learning" said Ali Jafari, CEO and Founder of CN. "Our model allows for the elimination (if desired) of traditional classroom "walls" and supports learning as open, free, and collaborative, consisting of interconnected content from postings and intercultural collaborations throughout the world.

This collaboration provides a new opportunity to explore and refine an innovative approach to teaching and learning based on openness, fully leveraging the power of social networking, with the promise of making learning more entertaining, student-centered, engaging, and intercultural.

Please use contacts listed above or visit <http://CollegeUnbound.org> and <http://TheCN.com> for additional information.

Ali Jafari, Ph.D. is Professor of Computer and Information Technology at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and CEO and Founder of CourseNetworking, LLC. As an entrepreneur, Jafari has created and founded several high profile systems and companies including Indiana University Oncourse (now Sakai), ANGEL Learning, Epsilon Environment, and most recently theCN.com.

Dennis Littky, PhD. is founder and Director of College Unbound, founder and Co-Director of Big Picture Company/The Met Center and has spent 40 years as an educator in rural, urban, and suburban districts working from kindergarten through college. The educational models he developed are now in more than 80 schools

worldwide. He is also author of *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business*. Dennis speaks widely about education, including recent talks at South by Southwest in Austin, TX, PopTech, TEDxNYED, and the World Innovation Summit on Education in Doha, Qatar.

About CourseNetworking (theCN.com)

CourseNetworking, LLC (CN) offers cloud-based learning tools and services for online, MOOC, and classroom-based courses. CN is designed to complement existing learning management systems (LMS) or to be used as a full-scale LMS and MOOC provider operating on a worldwide academic social network. Membership and course hosting is free to all members and schools throughout the world. Indiana University, Virginia Tech, and other prospective educational institutions have funded CourseNetworking, LLC. CN headquarters are in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Guangzhou, China.

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