



For Immediate Release

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***Growing a Nation: The Story of American Agriculture* Program Selected Best Social Studies Program of the year by the Association of Educational Publishers**

NORTH LOGAN, UT – June 12, 2006 – LetterPress Software, Inc, a leading designer and developer of preK-12 and adult technology-based education programs, announced today that its program, *Growing a Nation: The Story of American Agriculture* has been honored with an Association of Educational Publishers 2006 Distinguished Achievement Award. *Growing a Nation* received its award in the technology category by being named the best young adult social studies program of the year.

For 37 years, the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) Distinguished Achievement Awards have honored the diversity and quality of educational publishing products made for the home and school. This year's Distinguished Achievement Award winners were selected from over 1300 products developed by educational publishers from around the world. These products undergo a rigorous two-tier judging process by highly qualified individuals who are experts in their respective areas. The Distinguished Achievement Awards winners were announced at the AEP awards banquet and gala held in Washington, DC on June 9, 2006.

“It was a thrilling experience to hear *Growing a Nation: The Story of American Agriculture* announced as an award winner at the AEP gala this year,” said Mark Lacy, senior vice president of new product development for LetterPress. “We believe that this recognition truly validates our exciting new pedagogy model for integrating teachers, students, and technology with the historical content being taught in school curriculums.”

Other Distinguished Achievement Award winners for technology products this year included software produced by such renowned electronic publishers as PLATO Learning Inc., Scholastic Inc., Discovery Education, and the National Geographic Society.

Growing a Nation: the Story of American Agriculture is an interactive multimedia program that tells the story of American agriculture and its influence on important events and issues in American history. Using techniques of digital story telling, the program brings the history of agriculture to life and shows learners that the history of America is much more than just wars and battles. The program is filled with a wealth of original historical documents and media resources. A wide array of lesson plans and classroom activities makes the program especially useful as a curriculum resource for teachers.

Growing a Nation was designed using a generalizable pedagogy model that LetterPress Software has developed that successfully connects, teachers, students, and technology in classroom instruction. The software virtually models for its users an “enduring understanding” of American agricultural history.

The *Growing a Nation* story is supported with an abundance of original source documents and media resources. Each historical resource is carefully associated with a set of essential historical questions that allow teachers and students to engage in meaningful discourse. The resulting history instruction supports the critical elements of the five interconnected dimensions of historical thinking as published in the National Standards for History: (1) chronological thinking, (2) historical comprehension, (3) historical analysis and interpretation, (4) historical research capabilities, and (5) historical issues-analysis and decision-making.

Initial feedback from the teachers using *Growing a Nation*, indicates significant enthusiasm for this technology-based history program. Using the program teachers now really can bridge the gap from theory to practice in teaching enduring understandings for American history.

Growing a Nation: the Story of American Agriculture was designed and developed by LetterPress Software with funding and content assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture. Debra Spielmaker, Associate Professor, Utah State University Extension served as the project director and was a major contributor. The program supplements any American history curriculum, supports state and national standards for teaching history, and promotes literacy. This is the second major education award that *Growing a Nation: the Story of American Agriculture* has received this year.

About LetterPress Software, Inc.

LetterPress Software, Inc. is an award-winning instructional design and technology company. LetterPress in-house instructional designers, graphic artists, multimedia developers, and programmers are highly trained and experienced. For over nine years LetterPress has been designing and developing award-winning, technology-based training and educational software programs through the application of scientific principles of learning and instruction. They have provided instructional solutions for some of the nation's major educational software publishers, state and federal government agencies, universities and corporations, and schools and districts around the country. The instructional software they create is effective and engaging. LetterPress Software, Inc. is headquartered on the Utah State University Innovation Campus in North Logan, Utah, 435.755.5996 or 866.755.5996. For more information, see, www.lpssoftware.com.

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