

ORIGO Education Wins EDDIE Award for Best Teacher Tools

November 29, 2012

After a comprehensive judging process, ComputEd Gazette selected ORIGO Education to receive an Education Software Review Award (EDDIE). ORIGO's elementary core mathematics program, *Stepping Stones* was named Best Teacher Tools for 2012. According to ComputEd Gazette, The EDDIE Awards recognize "innovative and content-rich programs and websites that improve teacher productivity, providing parents and teachers with the technology to foster educational excellence."

"It is an honor for ORIGO to receive this award. Our team has spent a great deal of energy writing and designing *Stepping Stones*," notes Stephanie Hayes, ORIGO's Marketing Director. "ORIGO *Stepping Stones* has only been on the market for three months and is already gaining significant traction in school districts around the country."



The authors developed ORIGO *Stepping Stones* with three main goals. The first was to build a curriculum from the ground up to address the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), utilizing all available research to help shift teaching practices into the 21st century. ORIGO's curriculum challenges young students and assesses their progress, using the same criteria as the CCSS. "We must give greater emphasis to conceptual understanding and focus less on procedures," says James Burnett, President of ORIGO Education. "We need to teach today's students *how* to think, rather than the what to think of years past." Outside Lubbock, Texas, Math Coordinator Cassandra Slayton says, "*Stepping Stones* is already helping us identify gaps in numeracy knowledge that we can address now. My teachers just love it."

The second goal was to help curb the exorbitant costs associated with quality education. "I am not aware of any positive correlation between money spent on classroom resources and student achievement," notes Burnett. "We wanted to support schools' investments in technology with a resource that is cost-effective and within reach of tight budgets."

And finally Hayes states, "We wanted to give teachers a user-friendly platform that includes easy access to additional supplemental instruction." Teachers are challenged with delivering meaningful lessons that serve a diverse range of student abilities, while still insuring that standards are met. ORIGO *Stepping Stones* gives teachers the flexibility to customize their math instruction and meet students where they are in the learning process. Each lesson has appropriate practice pages, games, and digital teaching tools that teachers can utilize to augment their daily lesson. Chris Gardea, a Principal in Walla Walla, Washington, explained how ORIGO *Stepping Stones* has worked in his district. "We used to hunt all over to try and find activities and strategies to reach our students. Now we have access to resources that are engaging, accessible and include assessments that are aligned to our core standards."

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