

Expeditionary Learning Gains Charter Status Outward Bound's Whole School Reform Program to Operate as an Independent Entity

New York, NY – February 11, 2010 – Outward Bound USA, the nation's leading provider of experiential education programs, has announced that Expeditionary Learning (EL), its whole school reform program, has gained separate charter status. Formerly a division of the national non-profit organization, ELS will now operate under the direction of an independent board of directors and its Chief Executive Officer, Scott Hartl.

"Outward Bound has been a source of strength and inspiration for the last 17 years. Together we have demonstrated the central promise of Expeditionary Learning that students can achieve at high levels on standardized tests *and* be deeply engaged in their learning as critical thinkers and active citizens. Our schools around the country demonstrate very solid evidence of success and we have great hopes for the future," stated Hartl.

Launched in 1993, EL currently works with 165 urban, rural and suburban schools across the country, the majority of which are in low-income communities. Using an approach which emphasizes active learning and teaching as well as character development and teamwork, EL offers powerful support for teacher development, curricular design and classroom instruction, as well as methods for building stronger, more positive school communities.

John C. Read, Outward Bound President and CEO stated, "Expeditionary Learning is poised to become one of the leading school reform agencies in the country. We are proud of our accomplishments in changing the course of American education and look forward to supporting EL's continued progress as a more independent member of the Outward Bound family."

As part of the agreement, Outward Bound has provided a grant of in excess of \$1 million to assist in accomplishing a successful transition. In this new arrangement, EL will operate under a license from Outward Bound USA and continue to strengthen relations between EL Schools and Outward Bound Centers across the country.

About Outward Bound

Outward Bound, founded in 1941 by educator Kurt Hahn, is a non-profit educational organization that serves people of all ages and backgrounds through challenging learning expeditions that focus on character development, leadership and service.

Outward Bound inspires self-discovery and helps individuals and teams achieve their potential and develop the leadership skills needed to serve others in their community and care for the world around them. Outward Bound serves 70,000 students annually and has a nationwide community of more than 1 million people. www.outwardbound.org

For more information, contact Jenessa Connor at 720-497-2372 or jconnor@outwardbound.org.