



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connections Education, Virtual Education Provider, Earns Four 2013 BESSIE Awards for Exemplary Educational Software

-- Juilliard eLearning Courses, Math, and GradPoint™ Sites Honored --

BALTIMORE, April 25, 2013 – Connections Education (www.ConnectionsEducation.com), a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12, has been named a multiple winner of *ComputED Gazette's* 19th Annual Best Educational Software Awards (BESSIE Awards).

“We are honored to be recognized this year with four BESSIE Awards—a record for Connections Education—for our proprietary educational software and learning tools that span the entire grade range of students, from early elementary to high school,” said Dr. Patricia Hoge, senior vice president of curriculum and instructional services for Connections Education.



The BESSIE Awards recognize innovative and content-rich programs and websites that provide parents and teachers with technology to foster educational excellence. The 2013 Connections Education BESSIE Award winners are:

- Best Early Elementary Music Website—*Experiencing Music*
- Best High School Music Website—*Living Music*
- Best Middle School Math Website—*Middle School Math*
- Best Multi-Level Remediation Website—*GradPoint*

Connections Education, a division of Pearson, won its first two 2013 BESSIE Awards for courses from its recently launched Juilliard eLearning program—[online music courses](#) developed in partnership with the world renowned music conservatory, The Juilliard School. Juilliard eLearning represents the conservatory’s first-ever group of online music courses. *ComputED* judges observed that the courses “effectively bring music appreciation and musicianship skills to classrooms, employing sophisticated audio, visual and interactive technologies.”

Experiencing Music, introduces K–2 students to basic components of music in order to explore their own voices through performing and composing beats, different rhythms, and melodies. In *Living Music*, high school students study rhythm, beats, notation, and music history to gain a greater understanding of how the fundamental concepts of music are developed through Western-Classical history. Students also use sophisticated interactive tools, including virtual instruments and a digital sampler to arrange their own music.

Middle School Math is aligned to Common Core State Standards and focuses on key areas including ratios, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability. Interactive tools, resources and tutorials support instruction, which includes multiple opportunities for students to practice, review and apply their knowledge.

Connections Education won its final 2013 BESSIE Award in the “Multi Level” category for GradPoint’s site, which offers schools a diagnostic-prescriptive learning path for remediation. GradPoint makes it easy for teachers to personalize learning for middle and high school students with its multiple learning paths and customization options. It contains over 150 standards-based core, elective, honors and Advanced Placement courses—all delivered on an intuitive and comprehensive learning platform.

Enrollment is open in many Connections Education–affiliated **fully-online** and **blended learning** academies.

To learn more visit www.ConnectionsEducation.com.

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About Connections Education

Connections Education is a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12. Since 2001, the company’s Connections Academy division has delivered individualized learning to students through virtual public schools and a private online academy. In the 2012–13 school year, 24 Connections Academy virtual (online) public schools operate in 22 states and expect to serve more than 45,000 students from across the U.S. The Connections Learning division meets the needs of schools, school districts, and other institutions looking to develop and enhance their online learning programs. Connections Learning delivers a full range of targeted digital learning solutions to the K–12 education community including online courses, a program for homebound students, a digital learning platform, a private online school and a line of blended learning programs called Nexus Academy schools. More than 1000 schools, school districts, state departments of education and other educational institutions, serving tens of thousands of students throughout the United States and beyond, are already utilizing Connections Learning products and services. Connections Education is committed to expanding quality education through technology and helping students achieve both academic and personal success. For more information, call 800–382–6010 or visit www.ConnectionsEducation.com. Connections Education is part of the global learning company Pearson (NYSE:PSO).

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