



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**USING NEUROSCIENCE TO DEMYSTIFY MATHEMATICS EDUCATION:
FORUM TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON APPLYING RESEARCH
TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Washington, D.C., October 21, 2008—Today, MIND Research Institute is hosting a Forum at the Keck Center in Washington, D.C. on neuroscience and mathematics education to bring together educators, policymakers, researchers, mathematicians, and others to share findings related to the ways students learn mathematics. The Forum explores the connections among rising, rigorous math standards and assessments, new math curricula for algebra readiness, and the arrival of new paradigm learning tools based on scientific research. A reception at the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences follows the Forum.

Following this month's National Math Panel Forum, which was geared towards a discussion of the findings of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (NMP) report released earlier this year, this gathering will dig deeper into insights from neuroscience, namely the importance of visual problem solving, and how we can shape learning environments based on this information.

The Forum will begin with an example of original neuroscience research and how it is applied via instructional software, followed by a panel discussion of challenges and opportunities in policy and practice at the national, state and local levels related to the successful adoption of emerging research findings. The session will conclude with group discussion and questions.

Presenters at the forum include:

Jennifer Dounay, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States; **Shawn Smith**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Chicago Public Schools; **W. Steve Wilson**, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Mathematics, Johns Hopkins University; **Mark Bodner**, Ph.D., Co-Founder and President, Research Division, MIND Research Institute; Department of Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh; Department of Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins University; East China Normal University Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience; **Andrew Coulson**, President, Education Division, MIND Research Institute; and **Ted Smith**, Chairman and CEO, MIND Research Institute.

“Lessons from neuroscience about mathematics education have begun to move from generalities, or ever-expanding calls for more research, to actual field-tested classroom tools,” said Dr. Mark Bodner, researcher and co-founder of MIND. “This forum will address a new link between neuroscience and effective mathematics education.”

MIND Research Institute is a non-profit researcher and publisher that has translated decades of original research findings into a neuroscience-based, visual approach to teaching math using instructional software. This approach has been operationalized out to the classroom, helping tens of thousands of students to become more proficient in math and higher performers on state standardized math tests. MIND’s neuroscience-informed tools are able to productively engage the full spectrum of students, including those with limited-English proficiency, who have special needs or who are gifted.

“Our mission, as a non-profit organization, is to equip all students with a solid foundation in math,” said Ted Smith, MIND Research Institute chairman. “We have an important role to play in sharing what we have learned about an effective math education process. We are pleased to bring neuroscientists, mathematics educators, mathematicians and policy makers together to share knowledge and put successful practices to work in the classroom.”

MIND, which began its work within UC Irvine, designs math learning tools that use spatial temporal reasoning to remove barriers to math learning for all students. Its instructional software maximizes the use of visual representations, and minimizes distractions found to interrupt the learning process, as cited by the NMP. Teachers who use MIND’s education tools report that previously uninterested math students become immediately more engaged and motivated to work harder at math, because they believe they can do it and get results. Average performance for participating students has shown 15-20 points improvement in state standardized math test scores as compared to non-participants.

The Forum is being held from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., with the reception following from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Both events are taking place at 500 5th St. NW.

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About MIND Research Institute

The MIND Research Institute is a neuroscience and education research-based, nonprofit corporation. MIND taps into each student’s innate ability to do spatial-temporal (ST) reasoning and problem solving, and is effective at engaging students at all levels of language or academic proficiency. The elementary and secondary schools programs include STMath™: Algebra Readiness, instructional software for K-5 students, and Algebra Readiness: A Blueprint for the Foundation of Algebra, a comprehensive program featuring a tightly integrated textbook and courseware. There are currently 400 schools in California, Texas and 17 other states, and more than 70,000 students and 4,500 teachers participating in the program. www.mindresearch.net

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