



**Hillsborough
Education
Foundation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YOUNG EXPLORER COMPUTERS FROM IBM FOCUS ON IMPROVING
EDUCATION FOR AT-RISK HISPANIC STUDENTS**

Who: IBM and the Hillsborough Education Foundation

What: Presentation of Young Explorer computer learning systems to teachers and students

When: Wednesday, October 7, 2009 10:00am

Where: Mort Elementary School 1806 Bearss Ave. Tampa 33613

(September 29, 2009) TAMPA – As part of its commitment to addressing the extremely low numbers of Hispanics entering careers in math, science, and technology, IBM awarded a grant for 50 Young Explorer computer centers to schools in Hillsborough County, as part of IBM’s KidSmart Early Learning Program. The systems will be distributed by the Hillsborough Education Foundation through its School Enrichment initiative.

IBM’s KidSmart program includes the Young Explorer™, a computer housed in brightly-colored, kid-friendly Little Tikes™ furniture and equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centers can also help children learn important socialization skills such as how to work together and share. Exploration and socialization skills are important to prepare children for future success in school, help level the playing field and ensure all children have access to educational tools.

“At a time when many school programs are facing an education budget crisis, we are extending our program to those communities that often face reduced resources,” commented Janell Ray, Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs Manager.

This grant is part of IBM’s \$2 million nationwide initiative to provide 1,000 computers and teaching curriculum to schools and nonprofit organizations that provide services to areas with a Hispanic population of more than 40 percent. The state of Florida will receive three of the thirteen grants offered this year. The statewide donation total equals \$428,000, which includes additional Young Explorer equipment donated through other IBM grants in Miami and Tampa, all aimed to serve areas with high Latino populations. The recipients of the KidSmart grant in Hillsborough County are Title I schools who participate in the Foundation’s early literacy program, Hillsborough Reads, providing one-on-one tutoring to struggling readers in grades K-3.

For more information about IBM visit www.ibm.com. To learn more about the Hillsborough Education Foundation visit www.educationfoundation.com.

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Information on Hillsborough Education Foundation, Inc:

The Hillsborough Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization whose mission is to invest community resources to help students achieve academic success. The Foundation, now celebrating 20 years of serving the students, teachers and schools in our community has invested more than \$69 million for enhancement of education. The Foundation annually raises over \$5 million and fulfills its mission via programs such as College, Career & Technical Scholarships, Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools, Take Stock in Children Mentoring, School Enrichment, and Excellence in Education programs as well as other resource programs to benefit those we serve.