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For Immediate Release

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Edvantia Evaluators Receive National Recognition at American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in New York City

CHARLESTON, WV—A national honor for education evaluation was awarded to three Edvantia staff members by the American Educational Research Association (AERA) at its March 2008 annual meeting in New York City. The Edvantia team's report, *People and Moments in Time: Evaluation of Year 2 (2006-2007)*, placed third in the Program Evaluation Studies category of the Division H Outstanding Publications Competition. Authored by Susan Voelkel, Nate Hixson, and Kim Cowley, the report provides evaluation findings of a federally funded Teaching American History project involving elementary teachers in three Virginia counties. The Year 1 evaluation report, also produced by Edvantia, was awarded first place in last year's competition.

Notes lead author Susan Voelkel, "This award is particularly gratifying, given the commitment of project staff and all involved to complying with the rigorous demands of an experimental design." Kim Cowley, director of the evaluation team, added, "It is a privilege for us to have the opportunity to work with the staff of this project, and to be able to share this national recognition with them again."

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) introduced legislation in 2001 to establish the Teaching American History program. Its purpose is to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of traditional U.S. history. Grants are awarded through a competitive process that requires school districts to partner with institutions that have expertise in American history. An evaluation plan must be submitted along with the grant application.

During the grant review process, the evaluation plan designed by Edvantia for the People and Moments in Time project received the highest possible number of points. "This plan was instrumental in helping the consortium receive the grant," says project codirector Agnes Dunn. "The strength of Edvantia's evaluation plan is the variety of data collected to substantiate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the project," adds project codirector Rebecca Mills. "Timely feedback from teacher and student testing, activity evaluations, and anecdotal evidence refined project events and activities," explains project manager Sue Westhoff.

Edvantia's program evaluation work has been nationally recognized by AERA several times in the past decade. This year marks the seventh year in a row that Edvantia staff members have

received an award from the AERA division that focuses on evaluation and program development.

About AERA: The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is an international professional organization founded in 1916. Its primary goal is to advance educational research and its practical application. Its 25,000 members are educators; administrators; directors of research; persons working with testing or evaluation in federal, state, and local agencies; counselors; evaluators; graduate students; and behavioral scientists. Disciplines represented by the membership include education, psychology, statistics, sociology, history, economics, philosophy, anthropology, and political science.

About Edvantia: Edvantia is a nonprofit education corporation, founded in 1966, that partners with education agencies, foundations, publishers, and service providers to transform education through research and development. Edvantia provides clients with a range of services, including research, evaluation, professional development, and technical assistance.

