Quantum Creates World's First Artificial Intelligence Tutoring Software for Blind and Visually Impaired Students

Quantum Simulations, Inc., a developer of artificial intelligence (AI) tutoring and assessment software, has completed a six-month, $100,000 research project funded by the National Eye Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health, to produce the first and only tutoring software based on artificial intelligence for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Pittsburgh, PA (PRWEB) October 9, 2005 -- Quantum Simulations, Inc., a developer of artificial intelligence (AI) tutoring and assessment software, has completed a six-month, $100,000 research project funded by the National Eye Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health, to produce the first and only tutoring software based on artificial intelligence for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Quantum’s AI tutoring program for chemistry has been certified by the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) Nonvisual Accessibility Web Application Certification Program. Because the Tutors are Internet-based and equipped with a unique dialogue-driven tool that converses with students, the software is well-suited for use with synthesized speech screen access technologies utilized by individuals who are blind or visually impaired to navigate web sites and access e-mail. This historical achievement marks the first-ever artificial intelligence accessible Tutor for the visually impaired.

“Quantum Simulations has not simply achieved accessibility, they have systematically built it into the core of their tutoring technology,” commented Dr. Marc Maurer, President of the National Federation of the Blind. “In this way, they have created a powerful learning tool for all students and, fortunately, Quantum realizes that ‘all’ includes students who are blind or low vision. This inclusive and forward-thinking design strategy not only helped Quantum achieve Accessibility Certification, it helped them build a better product that benefits a wider audience, which is business innovation at its best.”

“With additional funding from outstanding agencies such as the National Eye Institute and the National Federation of the Blind, our hope is to incorporate accessibility into the complete line of Quantum Tutors within two years,” stated Dr. Benny Johnson, President and CEO at Quantum. “Equally important, the methodology developed by Quantum and our expert collaborators will have broad impact on the potential to develop accessible software in other content areas beyond math and science.” Just like working with a human tutor, Quantum's tutoring software allows students to work on any problems they choose, ask questions and receive personal guidance, hints and feedback based on their own work and subject knowledge. Through the use of patented artificial intelligence technology, the Quantum Tutors embody the proven teaching practices of Mr. Dale Holder, award-winning master teacher with over 35 years of experience. As a result, classroom research has shown that the Quantum Tutors can improve test scores by as much as 50%.

“It is tremendous to see a leading developer of advanced educational software place such high importance on accessibility,” said Jeff Dittel, President of Britlan Ltd. and collaborator on the Quantum Tutor accessibility project. “It is common these days for blind students to be diverted away from advanced science subjects such as chemistry before they are even given a chance to try. The Quantum Tutors will soon provide the blind the opportunity to learn science just like any other student.”

To learn more about the NFB's web certification program and company's who have been certified visit:
http://www.nfb.org/seal/intro.htm

About Quantum
Quantum Simulations, Inc. develops artificial intelligence (AI) tutoring, assessment and professional development software that empowers teachers and inspires students from middle school through college to improve their knowledge and appreciation for the sciences. Teacher tested and approved by educators across the United States, Quantum's AI software is proven in research studies to improve comprehension, problem solving skills and test scores by as much as 50%. Quantum's intelligent tutoring engines are integrated with existing web-based learning products, providing a strong competitive edge for distributing partners. A "technology think tank," Quantum is funded and supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. For a virtual demonstration of the Quantum Tutors, visit www.quantumsimulations.com/demo.html. To subscribe to the software, visit www.quantumsimulations.com/partners.html for a list of distributing partners.

About the National Federation of the Blind
With more than 50,000 members, the National Federation of the Blind is considered the largest and most influential membership organization of blind people in the United States. The NFB improves blind people's lives through advocacy, education, research, technology, and programs encouraging independence and self-confidence. It is the leading force in the blindness field today and the voice of the nation's blind. In January 2004, the NFB opened the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, the first research and training center in the United States for the blind led by the blind. For more information, please visit www.nfb.org.

# # #
Contact Information
Al Renshaw
QUANTUM SIMULATIONS, INC.
http://www.quantumsimulations.com
724-772-8014

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.