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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2007

Charter school wins Best Buy technology grant

FORT MYERS, Fla. – Lee County’s first public charter high school is proud to announce that it has received a 2007 Best Buy Teach Award. The awards support the innovative use of interactive technology in the classroom.

Richard Milburn Academy (RMA), located at 3830 Evans Ave., received the \$2,500 award based on the strength of an application submitted by Mr. Richard Hohimer, an art teacher, and his wife Dee, an English for Speakers of Other Languages assistant. Mr. Hohimer will serve as the faculty advisor for the winning project: a digital photography studio that will specialize in student and family portraits. The Best Buy funds will be used to purchase digital cameras, a tripod, a printer and photographic paper.

School Director Patricia A. Lightner said, “We’re thrilled to be able to provide our students with the opportunity to run their own portrait photography studio. They’ll learn about art and technology in a very hands-on way. We appreciate Best Buy’s efforts to provide technology and unique learning experiences to students and are honored to be one of its Teach Award recipients this year.”

Richard Milburn Academy opened in 2001 to provide students in Lee County with an alternative to the traditional public high school setting. RMA features small class sizes, school-to-work courses, flexible scheduling and student support services. Certified teachers deliver individualized instruction to students, adapting their curriculum and teaching practices to best meet the needs of individual students. Many students who struggled in a traditional public school setting thrive at RMA and graduate on time.

Richard Milburn Academy is located at 3830 Evans Ave. As a public charter high school, RMA does not charge tuition or enrollment fees. For more information or to enroll for the current school year, call 239-278-4774 or log onto www.richardmilburnacademy.org.

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Richard Milburn Academy offers students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma in a small, safe, supportive environment that meets their needs and helps them achieve personal and academic success. More than 1,275 students have enrolled at the school since it opened; 160 of them have graduated. During the 2005/2006 school year, approximately 483 students enrolled at Richard Milburn Academy; on May 22, 2006, 59 of them received their diploma.