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MEDIA RELEASE

CCA Student Wins Figure Skating Competition

School attracting students with special extracurricular talents

When Reagan Scott learned to ice skate and read books before she was even three-years-old, her parents knew she was unique.

So a few years ago, Kelly and Andrew Scott began looking into non-traditional schooling for their daughter. They came upon Commonwealth Connections Academy (CCA), a cyber charter school for students in grades K-12 in the state of Pennsylvania.

They researched CCA, went to information sessions, and spoke with other CCA parents and teachers. The Scotts decided to enroll Reagan at CCA for a year as a trial period.

A year and a half later, Reagan, 9, is a fourth grade student in the middle of her second year at CCA and her mom expects her to stay.

"We are really impressed," says Scott. "CCA has been great for Reagan. She is thriving."

A large motivating factor behind the Scotts' decision to look into CCA was their need for a flexible school schedule that could be coordinated with Reagan's young, but developing figure skating career.

Since she was little, Reagan showed promise of being an athlete on ice. Her mom, a former figure skater, and dad, who has coached hockey for over 10 years now, brought skating into Reagan's life at an early age.

Now, Reagan is an avid, competitive figure skater with the Hershey Figure Skating Club and she dreams of competing in the Olympics.

As a CCA student, Reagan attends class by using a computer in her family's home. She sits in on lessons broadcasted over the Internet by CCA teachers at any of the academy's six, remote teaching centers across the state.

When she's not in class, Reagan commutes from her home in Landisville, PA, to skating practice at facilities in Hershey, Lancaster, and Palmyra. Some days she leaves as early as 5:15 a.m. for 6 a.m. practice, and she often practices twice each day.

Reagan's hard work paid off this past September when she placed first in a free skate competition at this year's Challenge Cup, an annual figure skating competition hosted by the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society that features competitors and judges from around the country. Reagan placed first at the same competition last year while competing at a lower level.

For Kelly Scott, her daughter's triumph was a result of hard work and the right school choice.

"Reagan is very competitive," says Scott. "She has very high expectations for herself. There is also no way she would be able to train and develop her skills as a skater the way she does if she were not a CCA student. The school does such a good job in catering to her practice schedule."

But Scott also says that flexibility was not the only factor in her family's CCA choice.

While CCA students learn from academy teachers and visit CCA centers for science labs or extra help sessions, their parents function as learning coaches at home. Scott likes that she and her husband can be involved in her daughter's education.

Scott says that Reagan benefits from CCA's gifted program, too, which caters to CCA students individually by offering them personalized learning plans so that they can work above their grade level if they learn at an accelerated pace.

According to Scott, Reagan, whose interests lie in math and science, is an advanced learner.

"Reagan was lost in a traditional school setting," says Scott. "CCA's curriculum allows her to make the most of her potential."

Although Reagan Scott lives a busier lifestyle than most girls her age, it doesn't prohibit her from making friends.

CCA uses live video conferencing calls on the Web for its classes, which Reagan likes because it gives her a chance to interact with her fellow classmates and work with them on group projects.

According to her mom, Reagan also maintains contact with many her friends outside of CCA. Not only is she friendly with the other girls at the skating rink, but she takes group piano lessons regularly and has friends at home in her neighborhood, too.

Overall, Scott says she is pleased with her family's CCA experience and she recommends the program to other parents.

"If you have a son or daughter with a special interest either in or outside of school, I encourage you to look into CCA," she says.

About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual schooling for students in grades K through 12. Through tuition-free public schools, and full-time and part-time private school programs, Connections Academy delivers superior, personalized education for students, with the freedom and flexibility to experience our online learning community from anywhere. The combination of certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences creates a supportive and successful online learning opportunity for families and children who want an individualized approach to education. In the 2012–13 school year, Connections Academy will serve students in 22 states via 24 virtual public schools. It serves students worldwide through the online private school, National Connections Academy. Connections Academy offers grades K through 12, though some public school programs do not offer all grades. For more information, call 800–382–6010 or visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com. Connections Academy and its parent company, Connections Education, are part of the global learning company Pearson (NYSE:PSO).