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**NEW GROWTH LEADS TO NEW HIRES
FOR HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER**

(ORADELL, NJ) Following a year of unprecedented growth, Huntington Learning Center has welcomed two new professionals to its franchise development staff. Mark W. Mele, who has more than 21 years of experience in building and guiding top franchise brands, will serve as Vice President, Franchise Development. Jeffrey L. Bura, with nine years of experience in both sales and franchise management, will serve as Director of Development.

Mele comes to Huntington with extensive experience at Oxford Learning Centers and Kumon North America, Inc. At Oxford, he focused on expanding and maintaining the brand, which is a start-up operation in the U.S. and was established in Canada in 1984. At Kumon, his leadership as Vice President of Franchise Development resulted in the opening of over 500 new franchised Kumon learning centers in four years.

Bura began his career in October, 1999 as Regional Sales Manager of AAMCO Transmissions, where he soon became a District Manager and served most recently as the Regional Manager for Franchise Development. His successful track record includes full P & L responsibility for 105 franchise locations with sales in excess of \$65 million.

“Huntington’s success has always been driven by the entrepreneurial spirit of staff committed to capitalizing on our 30 years of experience as the nation’s longest running provider of supplemental education services, and we’re thrilled to have Mark and Jeffrey guiding us toward the future,” said **Huntington Learning Center Chief Executive Officer J.J. Sorrenti**.

Mele and Bura join the Huntington team during a period of unprecedented growth, highlighted by the opening of 66 franchises in 2006, a record for Huntington. While the growth has been fueled largely by the desire of entrepreneurial educators to create a stable, community-based business, it has also been driven by the rising number of parents and families seeking tutoring for students facing difficulties in meeting increasingly rigorous academic standards. Since 1998, the supplemental education services industry as a whole has grown at a compounded annual rate of nearly 12 percent, reaching \$6 billion in 2004.

The need for supplemental education services is driven further by the rising number of students enrolled in K-12 public and private schools. According to the U.S. Department of Education, enrollment in elementary and secondary schools rose 20

percent, to more than 53 million students, between 1985 and 2005. The pool of school-age children is expected to grow by an additional two million over the next 10 years.

New franchisees have also been encouraged by independent third party evaluations of Huntington's particular attributes in the industry. In 2006, Huntington Learning Center was selected for inclusion in *Bond's Top 100 Franchises*. Published annually, *Bond's Top 100 Franchises* chose Huntington based on historical performance, brand identification, market dynamics, operator satisfaction, the level of initial training and on-going support, financial stability and other key factors. More than 500 franchises were evaluated for the rankings.

Also in 2006, Huntington was named by *The Wall Street Journal's* StartUpJournal.com as one of the top 25 high-performing brands. As the only supplemental education services organization included on the list, Huntington Learning Center was lauded for criteria that include well-experienced leadership, strong financial health and a proven record of franchising success.

To learn more about Huntington Learning Center and its franchise opportunity visit www.huntingtonlearning.com or www.huntingtonfranchise.com.

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