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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Williston, VT - **Blanche Podhajski, Ph.D.**, President and Founder of the Stern Center for Language and Learning, is pleased to announce that the **Tremaine Foundation** has awarded the Stern Center \$20,000 to refine the Building Blocks for Literacy® online course site to act as the primary marketing and information vehicle for Building Blocks, as well as the platform from which the Building Blocks literacy program will be accessed, used, and improved by an active community of educator and parent advocates. This will also assist in development of the Building Blocks brand to build its reputation as a sought-after instructional program and curriculum resource, and to contribute to the “professionalization” of early childhood educators.

*[BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY®](#) is a program designed to promote pre-literacy skills for children in child care and preschool environments. Developed in 1997 at the [Stern Center for Language and Learning](#), this research-proven program teaches educators, child care providers, and parents nationwide how to foster pre-literacy skills in children by incorporating shared book reading, phonological awareness (breaking spoken language into its smallest parts), and speech-to-print relationships into playful preschool and child care activities. Based on research from the National Research Council, [BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY®](#) increases provider knowledge which leads to [early literacy](#) success. [BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY®](#) has grown to include three current applications: an online 12-hour [continuing education workshop for early care providers](#), a 3-credit undergraduate course, and an interactive activity and video website for parents. The **free** course is available at www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org*

The Stern Center for Language and Learning is dedicated to literacy for all. Many people who struggle with reading, writing, and mathematics do not learn the same way as those who easily achieve literacy. Stern Center professionals evaluate and teach all kinds of learners, including those with learning disabilities such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorders. The Stern Center is committed to helping individuals identify their learning strengths as well as their needs and to finding solutions that allow everyone to learn. More information available at www.sterncenter.org.

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