FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ReadSpeaker® Offers Support to Philadelphia's Adult Learners

Philadelphia, PA (November 6, 2015) -- **ReadSpeaker®**, a leading provider of text-to-speech software, has partnered with the **Mayor's Commission on Literacy (MCOL)** in Philadelphia to help adults improve their basic literacy skills. ReadSpeaker® donated its best-selling software for use in *my*PLACE Online, MCOL's path-breaking reading, writing, and math courses for low-literate adults.

Using state-of-the-art cloud-based text-to-speech technology, ReadSpeaker provides *my*PLACE Online learners with the ability to listen to course content, thereby helping those with reading challenges or learning disabilities better comprehend material to become confident, autonomous readers. Research shows that text-to-speech technology improves word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, accuracy, and recall. Because ReadSpeaker's technology requires no downloads, it integrates seamlessly on all supported devices and operating systems, including Canvas, the learning management system used by MCOL.

"ReadSpeaker is a phenomenal tool," said **Diane Inverso**, interim executive director, MCOL. "It improves the accessibility of *my*PLACE Online content for our Adult Basic Education students. For those with fluency issues, ReadSpeaker allows them to better understand text by hearing high-quality audio which helps to reduce barriers to learning. I commend ReadSpeaker's leadership team for their willingness to donate this program to support the educational pursuits of Philadelphians."

"We could not be more pleased to contribute to the work of the Mayor's Commission on Literacy. Addressing Philadelphia's high poverty and low literacy rates require partnerships across sectors. ReadSpeaker is proud to work with MCOL to make learning possible for adults," said Steve Moore, General Manager ReadSpeaker North America.

About The Mayor's Commission on Literacy – (www.philaliteracy.org)

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy (MCOL) has worked to equip all adults in Philadelphia with the education they need for work, family, and civic engagement since 1983. Mayor Michael A. Nutter charged MCOL to help the estimated 550,000 adults in the city functioning below basic adult education levels qualify for family-sustaining jobs and post-secondary training and education. In 2014, MCOL launched *my*PLACE℠, a collective-impact initiative that combines three place-based literacy campuses, path-breaking online courses for low-literate adults, and an electronic registration system that enrolls learners into face-to-face instruction at more than 30 literacy partners citywide. MCOL also recruits and trains volunteers; provides professional development to adult educators, tutors, and program administrators; and sponsors the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance, a membership organization of more than 200 adult education and workforce development practitioners and advocates.

About ReadSpeaker (www.readspeaker.com)

ReadSpeaker® is the worldwide leader in online text to speech. In 1999, ReadSpeaker pioneered the first-ever speech-enabling solution for websites followed by the first web-based platform for producing digital talking books, and it has been leading the way ever since. Our best-selling technology has helped over 10,000 customers and millions of users worldwide, in sectors such as education, government, media and non-profit. At ReadSpeaker our rich experience working with educational establishments has allowed us to create a literacy support service designed specifically with learners' and administrators' needs in mind. Using state-of-the-art cloud-based text-to-speech (TTS) technology, ReadSpeaker provides learners with the ability to listen to text content, using bimodal presentation to improve comprehension. By providing different ways of accessing content both for individuals and as integrated read-aloud solutions for the leading educational LMS systems, ReadSpeaker actively promotes Universal Design for Learning (UDL). And ReadSpeaker's seamlessly integrated technology requires no downloads, functioning on all supported devices and operating systems, further enabling users who would otherwise have to download and install third-party software.

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