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Contact: Lisa C. Hahn
Caugherty Hahn Communications, Inc.
201-251-7778; lisa.hahn@chcomm.com

GOING FORWARD TOOLS HELP TRAINEES REMEMBER THOSE LEARNING MOMENTS

Mnemonics and Visual Association Props from Trainers Warehouse

NATICK, MA, June 2, 2008 – If workshop attendees come away from a session with a handful of learning points that they will truly put to use, you can consider the training a success. The question is: How do you ensure that the effort will result in changed behavior? The answer: Going Forward Tools.

Going Forward Tools help participants imprint the most critical take-away points into their brains. Trainers Warehouse (www.TRAINERSwarehouse.com), the leading e-commerce site for tools, tips and toys for trainers and teachers, offers four options: mnemonics; tactile, write-on stress toys; visual association props; and “Conversation Starters.”

According to experts, mnemonics, the creation of a word in which each letter is a reminder of another key word, are one of the best methods to aid memory and retention. A customer service representative, for instance, might use the word “CLASS” to remember the following key words and concepts:

Customer is always right

Listen

Ask questions

Smile – they can hear it in my voice

Stay – stay with them until all questions have been addressed

Monster Mnemonic Makers from Trainers Warehouse (Monster Bendables, #GAGFMB, \$19.95, set of 48, pg. 48) are tangible tools trainers and teachers use to introduce the mnemonic concept. Facilitators ask teams to name their monster with a mnemonic that will help them remember the most critical learning points of the session.

A second Going Forward technique is to have learners write down important learning points on a tactile item that sparks their recall. Trainers Warehouse foam stress toy, the **Remember Hand** (#GAGFH25, \$62.50, set of 25, pg. 47) is designed for this purpose. Session attendees are asked to jot

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GOING FORWARD TOOLS – 2/

key trigger words or the most useful and inspiring points they acquire in the class onto the yellow foam stress toy. This visual reminder is to be kept at workstations to encourage recipients to put the new concept into action and act as a stress-reliever as they do so.

Visual association props enhance memory by creating a visual trigger that reminds individuals of something they learned or experienced. The prop can be something the trainer reveals to everyone, like a **Squiracle**, (#GAGFS, \$24.95 10/set, p. 47), which can be pulled into the shape of a circle or square, to help students think outside the box. Or, the prop can be an item that students self-select. Here, facilitators might ask students to select an item from a **Treasure Chest Processing Kit** (#GAFATR, \$47.95, p. 44), which metaphorically reminds them of their most important learning point. If the student is permitted to take that item with them, it will likely trigger that memory each time they glance at it. Michelle Cummings, founder of Training Wheels Inc., has been a pioneer in the use of debriefing and processing kits.

Finally, the Going Forward Tools referred to as “Conversation Starters” allow trainers to engage their group in a discussion about the barriers to implementing new materials once they’re “on the job.” For some, the obstacle might be support of supervisors, forgetfulness, comfort of old ways, time, or budgets. If the trainer lets her group leave without discussing those obstacles the ways to overcome them, the ROI on training will surely be compromised. Trainers Warehouse offers a handful of Going Forward Conversation Starters including the **First Aid Kit** (#GAGFA, \$24.95, p. 46), **Chess** (#GAGACH, \$49.95, page 45), and **Traffic Set** (#GAFACT, \$29.95, page 44).

Trainers Warehouse offers the most diverse product mix for effective training across all industries. In addition to searching the globe for the most effective products, Trainers Warehouse also designs and produces its own products based upon trainers’ comments. To order Trainers Warehouse products or request a catalog visit www.TRAINERSwarehouse.com or call 800-299-3770.

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TRAINERS WAREHOUSE offers hundreds of effective, innovative and fun products for trainers and educators across all industries. Established in 1993, Trainers remains a family-operated business that develops exclusive new products and searches the world for the best tools to help trainers achieve their goals. Popular products that improve retention and make training more engaging include game show templates and buzzers, icebreaker and team-building games, fiddles, presentation software, debriefing tools, tactile memory joggers, and achievement rewards. Trainers Warehouse, a woman-owned business, is based in Natick, Mass. and can be reached at 800-299-3770 or online at www.TRAINERSwarehouse.com.