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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

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2013 BLUE RIBBON STUDENT AND EDUCATOR INSTITUTE

Student and Educators learn leadership qualities at summer program

A group of students and teachers from across the United States have recently wrapped up a 3-day leadership program at Disney World.

Nearly 100 students and 60 teachers from elementary, middle and high schools attended this year's (BRSE) Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence BOLT (Building our Leaders of Tomorrow) summer initiative at Disney World on July 16-19. As part of Disney's Y.E.S (Youth Education Series) Program, BOLT included leadership-training activities with Disney staff in and behind the scenes of the resort. The BOLT program is in its second year and has doubled in the number of students and teacher participants.

“What better place to participate in a program on leadership than Walt Disney World, which is not only ‘The Most Magical Place On Earth,’ but also a great example of what can result from great vision and leadership as that of Walt Disney. It was a great way to combine fun and learning – lessons both teachers and students could apply to life and at their schools,” said John Goodale, Director of the BOLT program.

Teachers said the program gave students valuable lessons on leadership, initiative and other character-building traits. The students stepped up to the plate and began to exhibit those early leadership skills...and a variety of leadership skills. It was a program for the students that will enhance what they learn in the classroom. Teachers learned tons, too.

Brandon McMinn, who will attend Rising Sun High School this year, participated in the BOLT program. He said that his personal views of being a leader have changed because of the BOLT program. He also indicated that the program taught him to begin thinking about his future career and how to pursue it.

The program is available through the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence non-profit organization to any student in grades 3 through 12 with registration available through the BRSE website. Next year's program will take place at Disney's Yacht Club Resort on July 29 – August 1, 2014. Online registration will be available soon.

The Disney Youth Education Series programs are aimed at giving students a better understanding of various school subjects through experiences and attractions at Disney theme parks. Disney staff use interactive, student-led activities with study areas ranging from physical science and art and humanities to leadership and life management.

About Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Inc.

Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that administers this leadership program and is dedicated to providing educational improvement opportunities for all schools and all children. The organization finds what is working in schools and shares this knowledge with all schools through school improvement initiatives and a Web-based interactive library of best practices. For more information, please visit www.blueribbonschools.com.