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HEADLINE: **Michigan** Virtual University Partners with Thinkronize; netTrekker d.i. Provides **Michigan** Educators with New Online Resources that Inspire Classroom Learning

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BODY:

CINCINNATI, March 6 /PRNewswire/ -- As part of a new three-year agreement with Thinkronize, developer of the award-winning netTrekker search products serving more than seven million students and their teachers nationwide, **Michigan** Virtual University will now provide **Michigan** educators with powerful online resources that aid instruction and stimulate learning. As part of an ongoing commitment to **professional development** and technology integration, the state's educators will now have free access to over 180,000 high-quality online educational resources that align with the **Michigan** state benchmarks from the netTrekker d.i. search engine.

"The **Michigan** Department of **Education** is pleased to provide a powerful educational resource like netTrekker d.i. to every **Michigan** educator," said Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer for the **Michigan** Department of **Education**. "Today's classroom teachers need access to Internet search tools, like netTrekker d.i., that save them time and locate meaningful resources and materials that are aligned to the state's benchmarks."

Michigan Virtual University (MVU; <http://www.mvu.org/>), a private, not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1998 to deliver online **education** and training opportunities in **Michigan**. To support this mission, MVU's latest endeavor is the **development of Michigan LearnPort**, a **professional development** Web portal designed to help **Michigan** teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals access, manage and track **professional development**.

"**Michigan** Virtual University, through a partnership with the **Michigan** Department of **Education**, has developed the eLearning portal, **Michigan LearnPort**, for our state educators," said David Meyers, Director of **Michigan LearnPort** for MVU. "In order to meet our objectives of driving awareness and strong participation in **Michigan LearnPort**, netTrekker d.i., an acclaimed educational search engine, was recently added."

"**Michigan** educators can access netTrekker d.i. at no cost through their free **Michigan**

LearnPort account. The power and usability of netTrekker d.i. will give **Michigan** educators a compelling reason to use **Michigan** LearnPort on a regular basis. To sign up for a free account, **Michigan** educators can visit <http://www.learnport.org/> ."

Using netTrekker d.i., **Michigan** educators can access more than 180,000 educator-selected, standards-based online resources, and can then match those resources to individual students' learning needs. Because each resource has been assigned a readability measure based on Lexile(R) ratings and eight other popular methods, educators can target search results to find grade-level content at an appropriate reading level for every child.

Additionally, netTrekker d.i. incorporates several key features that will help **Michigan** teachers address pressing issues in **education**, including an entire section of customized resources devoted to helping instruct English language learners.

"netTrekker d.i. will empower **Michigan** educators with standards-based resources that can be matched to individual students' learning needs, ultimately helping every **Michigan** child learn and achieve," said Christine Willig, president of Cincinnati-based Thinkronize, netTrekker d.i.'s developer. "We're pleased to partner with a forward-thinking organization like the **Michigan** Department of **Education** that understands the value of technology and the significant impact the Internet can have on the educational process."

For more information about **Michigan** LearnPort and netTrekker d.i., visit <http://www.learnport.org/> and <http://www.nettrekker.com/> .

About the netTrekker Product Suite

The netTrekker product line includes award-winning educational search products for both the school (netTrekker classic and netTrekker d.i.) and consumer markets (netTrekker home). Unlike ordinary search engines, products from the netTrekker suite provide fast and easy access to only the best, pornography-free, educational resources from the entire Internet in a safe, organized, standards-aligned format. Using netTrekker search engines, educators, school librarians, students, and parents save valuable time because they are directed to relevant, reliable, educator-selected websites every time -- meaning less time spent on searching and more time focused on learning. For more information about the netTrekker suite, visit <http://www.nettrekker.com/> .

About Thinkronize

Thinkronize, an Internet developer of award-winning K-12 educational products, was founded in 1999 and grew out of a passion and commitment to enhancing teaching and learning with the Internet and standards-based online resources. The company's flagship product, netTrekker classic, was launched in October 2000 and has won 11 industry awards for excellence since its inception. Thinkronize currently serves nearly 7 million students in 48 states, including adoptions by key districts and states nationwide, making it

one of the fastest growing companies in the **education** industry. In recent years, the company has expanded the netTrekker product line to include netTrekker d.i., designed for use in schools to help educators meet individual students' learning needs, and netTrekker home, available for purchase by parents whose district or school has not yet purchased a netTrekker school subscription. For more information visit <http://www.thinkronize.com/> or phone 877-517-1125.

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