MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

2020 vision for the future of education to be debated

The radical way in which education will change over the next decade is the subject of the 2020 Visions For Learning event to be held in Wellington New Zealand on August 17.

The event is being organised by Learning Media, the award-winning educational services provider and publisher.

2020 Visions For Learning will bring together New Zealand’s education and health education leaders to discuss how education will evolve over the next 10 years.

The keynote speaker will be US education innovator Dr Monica Martinez.

Dr Martinez is one of the developers of the US-based KnowledgeWorks Foundation’s influential 2020 Forecast: Creating the future for learning. The Foundation uses the 2020 Forecast to highlight how education is evolving in a world where learning is tailored to the needs of the individual student and brought to life by compelling, real-world experiences.

She is also President of the California-based New Tech Network, a US school development organisation that starts and supports innovative public high schools. The network currently includes 62 high schools with 15,000 students across nine states.

New Tech Network has a record of lifting outcomes at once poorly performing schools by using a project-based learning (PBL) approach, where students work in groups on projects, guided by a teacher.

With PBL, the onus is on students to become active learners and solve problems by finding out what they need to know rather than being fed information by the teacher. Each student has a computer and access to a range of online learning tools, with the teacher acting as a facilitator and coach.

2020 Visions For Learning will be opened by Education Minister Anne Tolley. Other speakers will include Secretary for Education Karen Sewell, and Massey University Assistant Vice Chancellor (Māori) Professor Sir Mason Durie.

The programme also includes a series of roundtable discussions on digital learning, Māori achievement, the curriculum, health education, teacher professional development and adult workplace education.

The sessions will be led by senior Learning Media staff with presentations from the range of organisations that Learning Media partners with, such as: the University of Auckland; the New Zealand Council for Educational Research; national Māori health workforce development organisation Te Rau Matatini; and health consultants Quigley and Watts.

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Learning Media Chief Executive David Glover said that the event was timely because education was going to change at an unprecedented rate over the next ten years.
“Education change will be driven by the communications technology revolution, globalisation, an increased emphasis on health, and the evolving needs of employers and communities,” Mr Glover said.

“The rise of social media, to take one example, is changing society and is already reshaping how the next generation of students and teachers view education.

“We wanted to bring together thought leaders and education experts to look at the exciting possibilities for education in the next decade and how they can be made a reality in New Zealand,” Mr Glover said.

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Learning Media is an award-winning educational services provider and publisher. Our products and services are effective, engaging, and evidence-based. We produce much of the student and teacher material that the Ministry of Education provides to schools. We also contract publishing services to public and private sector organisations in New Zealand and overseas.