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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local students win opportunity to compete at Global Finals

AMES, IOWA – Months of creative teamwork have brought success to 13 Iowa teams who have earned the right to take part in the challenge of a lifetime at the Destination ImagiNation® Global Finals May 20-23, 2009. Each team will represent its age group for the team's solution to one of five competitive Destination ImagiNation® *Team Challenges* presented in Iowa. The international program also piloted a community outreach program this year. More than 500 students, or 87 teams from around the state, competed in creative problem-solving challenges at Iowa tournaments this year in Destination ImagiNation®, the world's premiere non-profit creative problem-solving organization. Students for a Creative Iowa, which administrates the program in Iowa, hosted the Affiliate Tournament on Saturday, April 4 at Ames Middle School in Ames, Iowa. Elementary, middle and high school teams previously showcased their outside-the-box solutions to official *Team Challenges* at either the Western regional competition held at Kuemper Catholic Schools in Carroll, or at the Eastern regional competition held at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Iowa teams will pit their teamwork, creativity and critical thinking skills against the best teams from across the U.S. and from around the world at Destination ImagiNation® Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Destination ImagiNation® is a worldwide creative problem-solving competition for students. Six competitive *Team Challenges* were presented last fall to teams from across the country. Over 300,000 students in over 45 countries and the United States participate in the Destination ImagiNation® program. In Iowa, Regional and State Finals are held in March and April of each year, respectively. The Destination ImagiNation® year culminates with Global Finals, where "the best of the best" match wits, imagination and personalities to become global champions. This year's Destination ImagiNation® Global Finals will be held at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville on May 20-23, 2008.

Destination ImagiNation®'s mission is to foster the development of divergent thinking and creative problem-solving skills. This popular process-based program, which is open to students from kindergarten through college age, teaches young people how to generate and focus on creative solutions that result from teamwork, cooperation and risk-taking. Up to 7 participants work together as a team for 8 to 12 weeks to create their unique solution to a Team Challenge, which can have a focus that is theatrical, structural, improvisational, scientific or technical--or a blend of several disciplines. Solutions vary according to their age group, and from team to team. Teams also learn and practice creative quick-thinking skills for the *Instant Challenge* portion of the program. Each team has a Team Manager who may be a parent, teacher or other interested adult. While most members are individual schools, community-based programs also participate. Participants learn unique and critical life skills including teamwork, critical and creative thinking, project management, resource management, mutual respect, research and presentation skills and, as all challenges must be strictly team-solved, self-reliance. These skills make Destination ImagiNation® participants more valuable to their communities and as future employees.

For more information about this enriching program for students, where students showcase their creativity and make friendships that last a lifetime, visit <http://www.cre8iowa.org> (Iowa's program) and <http://www.idodi.org> (international program).

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