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**READS HONORED BY NJDOE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

**East Windsor, NJ May 4, 2007--** During a celebration of Charter School Week, The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) honored Real Estate Advisory and Development Services (READS) with the Corporate Partnership Award. This prestigious Award recognizes efforts to support quality public school choice for all families in the state through leadership, creativity and commitment to equality and excellence in education.

“READS is helping to position the charter school movement for the future, with its innovative approach to real estate development,” said Rochelle Hendricks, Director of the office of Vocational, Technical Careers and Innovative Programs, which oversees charter schools.

“We thank Brian Keenan, President of READS for his vision, leadership and tireless efforts,” she continued.

In ten years the NJDOE has only honored two other organizations with the Corporate Partnership Award. READS joins the Geraldine R. Dodge and Prudential foundations in receiving this honor. “READS is a crucial partner among charter supporters,” commented Jessani Gordon the executive director of the New Jersey Charter Public School Association. “Because charter schools do not receive facilities funding, many charters never open or their growth is stunted. Through READS, a Dissemination Grant provided by the NJDOE, and the SMARTer Charters Program funded by The Dodge Foundation, the Association in partnership with READS is able to provide critical guidance and technical assistance on facility development and financing,” she said.

READS is a full service non-profit real estate development and consulting firm. It is focused on community and economic development. READS provides technical assistance and direct development services to organizations seeking to develop real estate to meet their organizational/client needs.

READS knowledge and capacity to navigate the complex waters of real estate development gives clients and funders alike, the confidence that their projects will reach fruition quickly and cost-effectively.

Since its inception in 2003, READS has worked with nearly two dozen schools in New Jersey on the development of their facilities, has assisted in the development of 200 units of special needs housing, and worked with nearly 20 early care providers and Community Development Corporations to solve real estate challenges.

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