



After School Advantage

Marks the seventh After School Advantage enrichment program in Illinois

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– June 12, 2013 –Northstar Lottery Group, the private manager of the Illinois Lottery, unveiled its newest *After School Advantage* learning lab today in Paris Cooperative High School located in Paris, Illinois. This marks the seventh lab of its kind in the state. Northstar’s latest *After School Advantage* lab features top-of-the-line computers – replacing equipment purchased more than a decade ago. This significant upgrade to the school’s existing computer lab, which supports both after school and summer programs, will help bridge the digital divide in this rural community and provide high school students with the technology they need to succeed.

“At Northstar, we believe in making meaningful contributions to the people of Illinois,” said Marco Tasso, president and CEO of Northstar Lottery Group. “The computers and software we provided to Paris Cooperative High School will help the students of Paris to embrace the advances in technology. We installed some of the best educational software programs available today that these students will greatly benefit from.”

Northstar’s donation includes 10 Dell computers, a new laser printer and educational software to facilitate tutoring efforts, enhance study time and enable students to complete their classroom projects after school. Northstar employees volunteered their time to design the lab and make it fully operational.

“Downstate schools have sometimes been at a real disadvantage when it comes to technology,” said 51st District Senator Chapin Rose. I greatly appreciate Northstar Lottery Group for helping to bridge the digital divide across Illinois communities and, in particular, here in Paris.”

"I'm thrilled for our students to have access to state-of-the art computer systems during our after school program and we cannot thank Northstar Lottery Group enough for providing this type of technology," said Mark Cox, director of the Alternative Education Program.

The *After School Advantage* program is part of a statewide community investment program in which Northstar Lottery Group has launched seven labs statewide since July 2011, when it officially became the private manager of the Illinois Lottery. The *After School Advantage* lab located at Paris Cooperative High School is the second lab in Central Illinois. All seven centers are fully operational year-round, providing a safe and enriching environment for children and teens in these communities.

To maximize its charitable giving and commitment to education and good causes in Illinois, Northstar plans to open additional labs in several regions throughout the state in the years ahead. Visit www.northstarlottery.net for more information on Northstar Lottery Group.

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Northstar Lottery Group is a consortium of best-in-class companies with more than 50 years combined experience in Illinois. Northstar Group is led by a partnership between GTECH Corporation and Scientific Games Corporation.

Paris High School is a learning community dedicated to developing well-rounded, productive, engaged citizens in a safe and supportive environment. Paris Cooperative High School is the first Cooperative High School in the State of Illinois and has approximately 625 students. The school has an average class size of 16.3 students, many of whom come from low-income families in rural Edgar County.