



## Northstar Lottery Group Debuts Chicago Heights *After School Advantage* Lab at SPEED

**For Immediate Release**

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**Chicago Heights, IL** – September 26, 2013 – Northstar Lottery Group, the private manager of the Illinois Lottery, unveiled its newest *After School Advantage* learning lab this week at SPEED student center in Chicago Heights, Illinois. This marks the eighth lab of its kind in Illinois providing at-risk youth with a meaningful and productive after-school experience.

The SPEED center reflects a Special Education Joint Agreement (S.E.J.A. #802) between 15 south suburban Cook County school districts that collaborate to plan, advise, recommend and provide special education programs and services to special needs individuals from birth to age 21.

"SPEED offers an exceptional special education program and we're honored to be able to help these young people with the implementation of this new computer lab," said Marco Tasso, president and CEO of Northstar Lottery Group.

Northstar's donation includes five Apple iMacs and five Dell desktop computers. Northstar employees also volunteered their time to design the lab and make it fully operational.

"We are beyond grateful for this computer lab. It replaces computers that were outdated and will help our students tremendously this school year and in the years to come," said SPEED Superintendent Dr. Genevra A. Walters.

The *After School Advantage* program is part of a statewide community investment program in which Northstar Lottery Group has launched eight labs statewide since July 2011, when it officially became the private manager of the Illinois Lottery. All eight centers are fully operational year-round, providing a safe and enriching environment for children and teens in these communities. Northstar plans to open additional labs in several regions throughout the state in the years ahead.

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### [Northstar Lottery Group](#)

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.

### [SPEED](#)

SPEED is a service organization whose primary functions are to plan, advise, recommend and provide special education programs and services for all member district students.