

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Goodman
(617) 926-6000 x276

**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, BOSTON AWARDS TOP HONORS TO
TOM SNYDER PRODUCTIONS' *DIORAMA DESIGNER***

WATERTOWN, MA November 10, 2004 – The prestigious Museum of Science, Boston has selected Tom Snyder Productions' *Diorama Designer* for one of its Top Choice Software Awards. The museum evaluated submissions from around the globe based on their ease of use, educational content, and production quality. Bearing the Museum's "Top Choice" seal, the eight winning programs are now installed in the Cahners ComputerPlace discovery exhibit at the Museum for hands-on exploration by young visitors. Tom Snyder Productions' *Rainforest Designer* software, one of 5 runners-up in the competition, will also be installed for use in the Cahners ComputerPlace discovery exhibit. Both programs are designed by Peggy Healy Stearns, Ph.D., who also designed *Graph Club* and *Neighborhood MapMachine*.

Diorama Designer is a powerful software program that lets students design original dioramas on the computer and then print and assemble them. Students can choose from hundreds of architectural elements and furnishings from different historical periods: Colonial American, Native American, Medieval, and Contemporary American. Students can print dioramas in different sizes – from dioramas that fit into a shoebox to ones that can be displayed as murals, large enough to create a set for a play.

"With so many new software titles each year, educators ask us what we recommend," said Kimberly Zern, program manager of the Museum's Cahners ComputerPlace. "Since it's so challenging to find inventive titles, we've put this annual review process in place to highlight select software titles. We hope by recognizing and exhibiting the best educational software we will make it easier for more educators and parents in their evaluation process."

An expert in creating interactive discovery experiences in science and technology, the Museum doesn't focus only on science and technology, but seeks titles that meet its criteria for user interface and hands-on learning and offer experiences that match its educational philosophy. The criteria include:

- A high level of interaction with little time just reading or passively listening
- The opportunity for learning and/or exercising cognitive skills, not just testing pre-existing knowledge
- Encouraging creativity and/or problem solving
- Constructive feedback that helps the user make forward progress
- Inspiring interest in learning more about the subject

“The Museum of Science in Boston has standards for educational materials and exhibits that are unwavering,” said Rick Abrams, General Manager of Tom Snyder Productions. “To receive their award for the quality of our educational content is truly an honor.”

Diorama Designer comes with a Mac/Win CD-ROM and comprehensive Teacher’s Guide with activities and reproducible masters. It is available for either stand-alone or network use.

Tom Snyder Productions

Tom Snyder Productions, a Scholastic company, is a leading developer and publisher of educational software for K-12 classrooms. The company was founded over 20 years ago by Tom Snyder, a former science and music teacher who pioneered the utilization of technology in the classroom to enhance teaching and learning. Today, Tom Snyder Productions carries over 100 award-winning software titles covering each curriculum area, and is improving student performance and understanding in over 400,000 classrooms. Tom Snyder Productions’ professional development team has helped more than 175,000 teachers learn to integrate technology effectively into the curriculum. (www.tomsnyder.com)

Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Scholastic creates quality educational and entertaining materials and products for use in school and at home, including children's books, magazines, technology-based products, teacher materials, television programming, film, videos and toys. The Company distributes its products and services through a variety of channels, including proprietary school-based book clubs, school-based book fairs, and school-based and direct-to-home continuity programs; retail stores, schools, libraries, and television networks; and the Company's Internet Site, www.scholastic.com.

The Museum of Science is Boston’s most highly attended cultural attraction, attracting 1.6 million visitors a year. Welcoming 300,000 visitors annually, Cahners ComputerPlace offers a one-stop resource for software that inspires people to create, explore and learn. Cahners ComputerPlace is free with the cost of Museum admission. For more information, call (617)723-2500 or (617)589-0417 (TTY).

For further information on *Diorama Designer*, visit www.tomsnyder.com/diorama or contact Kim Goodman at (617) 926-6000, Ext. 276.

###