High Resolves and OpenLearning partner to deliver online citizenship and leadership experiences amidst school disruptions

Highlights:

- High Resolves designs and delivers award-winning learning experiences in values and civics education relating to bias, social inclusion and societal fairness, which have engaged over 350,000 students in hundreds of schools in Australia, the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Brazil.
- OpenLearning, one of the world’s largest education platforms with 62 education providers and 1.74m learners, enables the delivery of socially constructive online learning experiences.
- Due to the COVID-19-driven school closures worldwide, High Resolves faced the prospect of cancelling all their immersive learning experiences in high schools if they could not deliver the same quality and outcomes remotely.
- OpenLearning and High Resolves are working together to reimagine dozens of its high-impact experiences to be delivered to students online via OpenLearning, taking advantage of its flexible, student-centric approach that enables high interactivity as a key element of learning.
- Every High Resolves partner school will receive free access to its own secure OpenLearning portal for 1 year to deliver High Resolves experiences and to create courses for their students, ensuring they are able to move online amidst school closures.

Sydney, Australia, March 27, 2020: OpenLearning Limited (‘OpenLearning’, ASX:OLL), a higher education software as a service (SaaS) company, and High Resolves, a global award-winning not-for-profit social venture (‘High Resolves’) are pleased to announce a partnership that will see the award-winning High Resolves citizenship and leadership programs delivered online to students worldwide and provide up to 1,000 high schools (mainly in Australia) with free access to the OpenLearning platform this year amidst school disruptions.

Due to the COVID-19-driven disruptions to many schools worldwide, High Resolves will reimagine dozens of its high-impact experiences to be delivered to students fully online via OpenLearning within six weeks with support from OpenLearning’s learning designers. Once launched, the courses will be facilitated by the High Resolves network of experienced facilitators and tailored to the requirements of each partner school.

The research-backed educational approach on which the OpenLearning platform is built enables High Resolves, as well as teachers at each school to create courses that inspire, engage and motivate their students in a safe and private learning environment.

This approach will enable High Resolves to deliver its flagship Peak Experiences (including Identity & Purpose, Just Society, Social Progress and Better Self), as well as a new remote offering for its popular Videos for Change competition, by engaging students, who are learning in their homes, through new but equally engaging online versions. Over time, the entire range of professionally delivered learning experiences will also become available over the OpenLearning portals.
Schools worldwide are facing challenges moving online, including access to flexible and scalable learning platforms with ample support and examples of world-class online learning experiences from which to model their own courses.

In line with the values of High Resolves and OpenLearning, each school will be granted a free portal on the OpenLearning platform for one year, enabling them not only to continue with their High Resolves programs, but also to create additional courses across all their subjects. Under the plan, each school will manage its own access to courses and meet local privacy requirements with guidance from OpenLearning’s team.

High Resolves is well-supported by the Department of Social Services of the Australian Government, which announced in May 2019 that it would allocate $6 million to the not-for-profit to expand its geographic reach within Australia, and in its first six months it reached 18,000 Australian students in regional areas. High Resolves is also supported by several large American philanthropic organisations including the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Imaginable Futures (formerly part of Omidyar Network).

High Resolves has received multiple awards including the Good Design Australia Patron’s Award and the Aspen Institute’s prestigious John P. McNulty Prize. In September 2019, High Resolves Co-Founder and CEO Mehrdad Baghai was named a ‘Social Entrepreneur of the Year’ by the Schwab Foundation, sister organisation to the World Economic Forum.

OpenLearning primarily works with higher education providers to deliver both accredited and non-accredited online programs ranging from free taster courses to online degrees and micro-credentials, however, it has a long history of supporting schools and is one of the largest platforms for online teacher professional development in Australia, delivering courses to over 30,000 teachers.

OpenLearning launched in 2012 with a mission to increase access to higher quality education by providing a scalable online learning platform to education providers and a global marketplace of world-class courses, reaching over 1.74 million learners of all levels.

**High Resolves Co-Founder and CEO Mehrdad Baghai said:** “Because High Resolves has set the benchmark for transformative learning experiences, I was initially very sceptical that any online delivery of our programs would meet our expectations and standards. However, following a series of video conferences with OpenLearning, my confidence in both their platform and team grew enormously. We are very pleased to have entered into this partnership agreement with OpenLearning and we are all looking forward to delivering our online learning experiences through this innovative platform next month. About six weeks ago, we recognised the possibility of school closures due to COVID-19, and so we began a strategic sprint to find a different way to support our tireless and dedicated school leaders who would be searching for creative ways to continue to engage their students.”

**OpenLearning Group CEO & Managing Director Adam Brimo said:** “We are very excited to partner with High Resolves, an organisation that shares our values and mission to deliver high quality learning experiences. As schools, colleges and universities are disrupted worldwide due to COVID-19, moving education online is a logical step, however, we must not compromise quality in the process. This partnership demonstrates that it is possible to transform a face-to-face experience into a highly engaging and effective online experience, quickly and cost effectively, setting the benchmark for online education and providing a model for OpenLearning’s targeted expansion into the K12 sector.”

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About OpenLearning Limited (ASX:OLL)
OpenLearning is a software as a service company that provides a scalable online learning platform to education providers and a global marketplace of world-class courses for learners of all levels.

OpenLearning’s platform enables the delivery of project-based, social learning to encourage interaction among users and foster a community of collaborative learners. The company’s unique service provides a complete learning environment for all types of online education - from short courses through to micro-credentials and online degrees.

With more than 1.74 million learners worldwide across over 7,900 courses provided by 62 education providers, OpenLearning is at the forefront of a new wave of online education delivery.

To learn more, please visit: https://solutions.openlearning.com/

About High Resolves and Mehrdad Baghai
Baghai has had an esteemed career, and his deep experience has been critical to the growth of High Resolves. Mehrdad has been a business strategist, thought leader at McKinsey on growth strategy, CEO of a technology company in California, technology venture architect and investor, and a leading author on collective action and partnering.

In response to rising intolerance, Mehrdad Baghai, and his wife Roya, co-founded High Resolves, a multi-year, transformation program that inoculates high school students against racism and hatred, and trains them to be active agents of constructive social change in their communities.

Mehrdad’s personal childhood experiences motivated his academic work with Nobel-laureate Tom Schelling and laid the foundation for what has become the immersive learning approach of High Resolves. High Resolves is being recognized for its distinctiveness. It was awarded the Patron’s Prize from Good Design Australia for excellence in user experience design. In November 2018, it was awarded the Aspen Institute’s John P. McNulty Prize, which celebrates the boldness and impact of individuals who are using their expertise and entrepreneurial spirit to address the world’s toughest challenges.

To learn more, please visit: http://highresolves.org