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Contact:

Debi Garrity, Director of Marketing
FirstNet Learning, Inc.
303.302.1187 x310 or
888.948.4949 x310
dgarrity@firrstnetlearning.com

MJ Pearle, PR Manager
The Redwoods Group
919.462.1309 or
800.463.8546 x309
mjpearle@redwoodsgroup.com

NEW ONLINE TRAINING OFFERED TO HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE
AT YMCAS, JCCS AND RESIDENT CAMPS

DENVER, CO -- FirstNet Learning, a leading provider of online learning solutions, and The Redwoods Group, a commercial specialty insurance provider, announce the launch of The Redwoods Institute, a new free online university created exclusively to help YMCA, Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) and resident camp staff learn to keep kids safe by preventing drowning, injury, abuse, vehicular accidents and more.

The Redwoods company motto is to Serve Others® and the Redwoods Institute does that exactly with meaningful, interactive and engaging online courses. “Our new online training site, accessible anytime and anywhere, will save our customers -- YMCAs, JCCs and resident camps around the nation -- time and money and, most importantly, will make their employees and the people they serve safer,” said Dan Baum, Redwoods Manager of Distance Learning.

“Redwoods knows our customers face significant financial challenges and increased demand with reduced staff as they work to build strong, sustainable communities,” said Kevin A. Trapani, Redwoods President and CEO. “In difficult times like these, we have to look for new ways to operate. Embracing technology can help us meet these challenges.”

Since Redwoods was formed in 1997, the company has provided annual risk management training to thousands of young staff members at YMCAs, JCCs and resident camps. Trapani noted a 2009 study by the U.S. Department of Education showed that students in online courses outperformed those in face-to-face classes. “This new reality means we’ll have to let go of some of the things we are comfortable with such as focusing mainly on face-to-face training, but taking advantage of these opportunities can set our organizations up for success long into the future,” he said.

“Traditional insurance companies assess risk. The Redwoods Group takes its mission very personal and goes the extra mile for its customers to change operating behavior, reduce risk, and, most importantly, to protect its YMCA, JCC and camp customers and the individuals

(more)

they serve,” said Roy Burger, Chairman and CEO of FirstNet Learning. “We could not be more pleased to partner with this community-minded and thoughtful organization to develop and support The Redwoods Institute.”

Redwoods customers say the online training is valuable, providing critical safety information that their staffs need and appreciate.

“We are extremely grateful to have this tool available to our staff,” said Bill Lovett, CEO of the Metuchen Edison Woodbridge YMCA, in Metuchen, N.J. “The Redwoods Institute is not only an example of the commitment of The Redwoods Group to partnering with YMCAs to keep our members safe, it is an example of the kind of innovative thinking that has made Redwoods a valued friend of YMCAs across the United States.”

Merv Bennett, President and CEO, YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado Springs, CO, said the new online training expands the shared mission of Redwoods and the YMCAs. “The new online training tool is an example of The Redwoods Group’s continued commitment to strengthening the work and mission of every YMCA,” he said. “The Redwoods Group has been our partner in risk management and property/liability coverage for many years -- extremely responsive during a time of crisis and proactively helpful as we grew and expanded.”

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The Redwoods Group, a privately held, socially conscious company, provides property and casualty insurance underwriting and risk and claims management services to YMCAs, Jewish Community Centers and resident camps across the nation. Headquartered in Morrisville, NC, the company’s business and social mission is to protect and improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. Its motto is to **Serve Others®**. For more information, please visit the company’s website at www.redwoodsgroup.com

FirstNet Learning is a leading provider of turnkey, online customer-branded universities, campuses and training centers. The company provides innovative online learning solutions for municipalities, insurance risk pools, businesses, and non-profits across the U.S.A. and around the world. FirstNet Learning offers numerous online learning products and services, including custom blended learning solutions, an extensive e-learning catalog of more than 2,500 courses, and custom course development, tailoring, and conversion. Founded in 1999, FirstNet Learning serves clients worldwide from its Denver headquarters.

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