

# Bob Hetherington & Associates

Investor and Public Relations

News about **Peer Power's** success in Mississippi went national. These are among the outlets that picked it up and shared it with readers.



The Boston Globe



San Francisco Chronicle

YAHOO! FINANCE

## Scores Surge After 1st Year of Peer Power Tutoring Initiative Success Prompts Grant to Expand, Extend Learning Program

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 23, 2009 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- State math exam scores surged among seventh graders at Shelby Middle School in Shelby, Miss. this spring following an innovative year-long after-school learning program known as Peer Power. As a result, the school district in the tiny Mississippi Delta town has been awarded nearly \$600,000 to expand and extend Peer Power over the coming five years.

"This kind of financial support will mean that we can touch the lives of so many more students," said Rives Neblett, a lawyer, planter and businessman who brought Peer Power to his hometown of Shelby. Peer Power is a tutoring initiative for 7th through 12th graders founded by Memphis businessman and philanthropist Charles McVean five years ago. Since then, Peer Power has helped improve academic performance at challenged public schools and grown to serve more than 1,000 students daily.

"Our vision has always been to help students help themselves through education and develop a model that could be replicated with success anywhere," said McVean. "We believe students learn best from older students who can provide the focused individual attention and positive influence younger students need to succeed. This award shows others believe our approach works well, too."

At Shelby Middle, 91 percent of seventh graders in the Peer Power program scored proficient or better in math on the Mississippi Comprehensive Test 2 (MCT2) and 58 percent of all seventh graders scored proficient or better, math teacher David Rhoades said. "The results are amazing, remarkable really, when you consider that in sixth grade only 37 percent of these students scored proficient or better," Rhoades said.