

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** March 9, 2015 **CONTACT:** McKenna Young 484-385-2913 (office) myoung@briancom.com

## PRESS RELEASE

## Horatio Alger Association Honors Idaho Falls Entrepreneur Frank L. VanderSloot and National Scholarship Recipient from Idaho

Frank L. VanderSloot and Scholar Savannah Wheeler are recognized by the Association for their remarkable achievements in the face of adversity and their commitment to higher education

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 10, 2015)** – Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., a nonprofit educational organization honoring the achievements of outstanding individuals and encouraging youth to pursue their dreams through higher education, will induct Idaho resident **Frank L. VanderSloot, CEO of Melaleuca, Inc.**, as a lifetime Member in April. Concurrently, an outstanding Idaho student will be awarded the prestigious Horatio Alger National Scholarship. Association Members and Scholars are selected based on their integrity and determination to succeed in the face of significant adversity, and Members often become mentors to this future generation of leaders.

Named for renowned author Horatio Alger Jr., who wrote about the merits of honesty, courage and perseverance as the means to success, Horatio Alger Association was established in 1947 to uphold these tenets, which are core to achieving the American Dream. To further its mission, individuals who have achieved great success despite facing significant personal challenges and who demonstrate initiative, resilience and excellence, such as Mr. VanderSloot, are inducted into the Association annually as lifetime Members.

"Members of Horatio Alger Association are a select group of business and philanthropic leaders who continue to incite change and inspire young students, and Mr. VanderSloot is an excellent addition to this group," said David Sokol, chairman of Horatio Alger Association. "From running the family farm at a young age to founding a billion dollar company, Mr. VanderSloot deeply understands the importance of hard work and education. He is a prime example for our Scholars of what it means to be a leader."

Since 1984, Horatio Alger Association has administered one of the nation's largest privately funded, needbased scholarship programs, which provides educational assistance to at-risk youth with an admirable commitment to continuing their education and serving their communities. The Association has provided more than \$100 million in undergraduate, graduate and specialized scholarships since 1984. Savannah Wheeler, a student at Priest River Lamanna High School from Priest River, Idaho, has been recognized for her exceptional accomplishments with the 2015 Horatio Alger National Scholarship in the amount of \$22,000. "We receive thousands of applications each year for our National Scholarship Program, and we are continually humbled by student stories of perseverance and resilience," said Tony Novelly, president and CEO, Horatio Alger Association. "Savannah Wheeler, the scholarship recipient from Idaho, truly demonstrates admirable character and has overcome significant obstacles while still maintaining her desire for education. We look forward to supporting her and encouraging her successes in college and beyond."

Mr. VanderSloot and his fellow new Members will be formally inducted into the Association at the 68<sup>th</sup> Horatio Alger Award Induction Ceremonies in Washington, D.C. on April 9-11, 2015. The annual three-day event honors the achievements of the Members and also recognizes the 2015 Horatio Alger National Scholars, affording both groups the opportunity to meet and interact, exchanging stories of hardships, triumphs and successes.

To view the complete list of Horatio Alger Members selected for the Class of 2015, please visit here.

To view the complete list of 2015 Horatio Alger National Scholarship recipients, please visit here.

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## About Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans:

Founded in 1947, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. fulfills its mission of honoring the achievements of outstanding individuals who have succeeded in spite of adversity and of encouraging young people to pursue their dreams through higher education. Horatio Alger Association supports students through annual undergraduate and graduate need-based scholarships and mentoring programs across the United States and Canada. Since 1984, the Association has awarded more than \$100 million in college scholarships to deserving young people. For more information, please visit <u>www.horatioalger.org</u>.