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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Local Couple's World Travels Highlighted at
Appleton North High School's Global Awareness Week**

APPLETON, Wis. – Michelle Richard, co-owner and director of operations of Coalesce, Inc., along with her husband, Jon Richard, are featured presenters during Appleton North High School's annual Global Awareness Week. Sharing experiences from their recent trip around the world, the Richards will speak on Thursday, March 12, from 8:20 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. at the Appleton North High School auditorium.

Their presentation will focus primarily on their experience in China; highlights include viewing the Terracotta Warriors, watching the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay run through the streets of Shanghai, walking on the Great Wall of China and getting up close and personal with pandas. They will also discuss observations surrounding cultural differences and offer a glimpse of the lifestyle.

"We had no prior travel experience in Asian countries – and sometimes you have to see something first-hand to understand it," says Michelle. "We certainly took away a greater appreciation for Chinese history and culture."

The Richard's 2008 trip around the world spanned more than 22 countries in six months. Carrying only a small backpack, the couple planned a budget-conscious trip, staying most often in youth hostels, but also with friends and other connections made along the journey.

Appleton North High School's 2009 Global Awareness Week is March 9-13. Each year students, faculty and community members are invited to address the student body regarding world topics; including travels, current issues and living experiences in other countries.

About Coalesce, Inc.

Founded in 2004 by owners Michelle Richard and Lisa Piikkila, Coalesce, Inc. provides a full range of strategic marketing and communications services to client businesses and organizations.

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