

**NEWS  
RELEASE**



**FOR INFORMATION**

**John Williams Jr.**, SILLIKER, Inc., 708/ 957 7878  
**C.J. Reynolds**, Sunshine State Strategies, 813/ 944 3911

## **Silliker, Inc., Organic Education Solutions Announce Formation of New Strategic Partnership**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - Homewood, IL, February 17, 2010 -- Silliker, the leading international provider of food safety and quality assurance services, announced it has entered into a strategic partnership with Organic Education Solutions LLC to provide organic training and consulting services to manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and other stakeholders.

Organic Education Solutions was formed by the executive team of Organic Concepts LLC, which provides operational, regulatory and strategic guidance to support organic certification goals. The Organic Concepts management team has more than 70 years in the organic industry and is recognized for their expertise in organic program development, consulting, documentation support and training for farmers, manufacturers, retailers, USDA accredited certifying agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations.

Sales of organic food and non-food products reached \$24.6 billion in the U.S. in 2008. Organic food and beverage sales grew 15% over 2007, compared to 5% for conventional food, according to the Organic Trade Association. Manufacturers and retailers are responding to consumers by creating new certified products, adding private label lines and co-manufacturers – all of which must operate under an Organic System Plan and in compliance with USDA National Organic Program (NOP) regulations.

To support growing organic training needs, Organic Concepts launched the new company, Organic Education Solutions LLC (OES). Silliker, a leading provider of education services for the food industry, will serve as the primary distributor of OES training products. OES will unveil their initial products and materials at the Natural Products Expo West in March.

“We are extremely pleased to collaborate on the development and distribution of new training programs,” said Dr. Gustavo Gonzalez, Silliker Director of Technical Services. “The highly innovative programs will help companies improve the competencies of personnel and increase compliance to the NOP.”

“Past incidents have shown that companies making organic products need to be sure that both their organic and food safety programs are strong and employees are effectively trained,” said Rick Martinez, Chief Executive Officer for Organic Education Solutions and founder of Organic Concepts. “Our collaboration with Silliker provides the industry with enormous value.”

As part of the collaboration, Organic Concepts will provide support services to Silliker customers who need assistance updating an existing program or developing a new certified program across their supply chain.

For more information on Silliker and Organic Concepts, please log on to: [www.silliker.com](http://www.silliker.com) and [www.organicconcepts.info](http://www.organicconcepts.info).

# # #

About Silliker: With over 40 years of experience and part of Institut Mérieux, Silliker provides consulting, testing, auditing, research and training services that help ensure food safety and nutrition worldwide. Silliker is recognized for its expertise in providing recommendations that help identify operational problems, anticipate areas of concern, and institute practical controls associated with food safety and quality risks. To learn more about our expert services, please log on to [www.silliker.com](http://www.silliker.com).

About Organic Concepts: Organic Concepts LLC was formed in 2007 and is the premier consulting firm providing operational, regulatory and strategic guidance to help producers, processors, retailers and all companies and organizations working in the supply chain accomplish their organic certification goals. To learn more about how OC can solve your challenges and support your growth, please log on to [www.organicconcepts.info](http://www.organicconcepts.info).