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QWEST TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

\$100,000 Available to Help Support Teachers

OLYMPIA – January 16, 2007 – Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson today announced that Qwest is providing a \$100,000 technology grant to Washington teachers.

Through the Education Technology Support Center Program, OSPI will use the grant funds to recognize Washington K-12 public school teachers who are using technology in the classroom in new and innovative ways, and want to take that classroom experience to the next level.

“Technology is an essential element of the 21st century learning environment,” Bergeson said. “As students develop an understanding of our world, learning technologies have great potential to build equity among learners. We can deliver diverse and culturally relevant learning experiences that relate directly to the world in which students live.”

Learning technologies can customize instruction

Technology has a dual role in education. It is the network backbone for administration and data systems, and it provides tools that allow teachers to shape the learning environment. Learning technologies allow students and teachers to customize their learning experiences and connect to communities of interest worldwide.

“Technology plays a critical role in almost every aspect of our lives, especially in learning,” said Kirk Nelson, Qwest president for Washington. “We want to help provide Washington teachers and students with opportunities to showcase how technology can be used more effectively in the classroom.”

Washington K-12 public school teachers have until February 15 to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Applicants should detail the goals of their project and the hardware and software they need to complete it. Application information will be available online on January 17, 2007, at the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/>

“These grants give us an opportunity to recognize the remarkable innovation possible as our teachers integrate technology into standards-based curriculum. Technology is a tool that can help us to improve student performance,” said Bergeson.

Grant funds will promote the development and sharing of best practice with educational technologies, and support the implementation of Washington's K-12 Educational Technology Plan.

Educational Technology Support Center Program

In 1993, the Washington State Legislature approved the Educational Reform Bill, which funds the statewide ETSC program. Administered through OSPI, this program is designed to provide school districts with leadership, support and training as they move forward in implementing technology. An Educational Technology Support Center is located at each of the nine Educational Service Districts in Washington State.

<http://www.edtech.wednet.edu/etsccorner/about.shtml>

About OSPI

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent Dr. Terry Bergeson, OSPI works with the state's 296 school districts and nine Educational Service Districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students. For more information, visit the OSPI Web site at <http://www.k12.wa.us>.

About Qwest

Qwest Communications International Inc. (NYSE: Q), through its operating subsidiaries, is a leading provider of high-speed Internet, data, video and voice services. With nearly 40,000 employees, Qwest is committed to the "Spirit of Service" and providing world-class services that exceed customers' expectations for quality, value and reliability. For more information, please visit the Qwest Web site at www.qwest.com.