

Contacts:

Lisa Grantham  
Classroom Connect  
(650) 351-5137  
lgrantham@classroom.com

Martha Peet  
The Texas Center for Educational Technology (TCET)  
(940) 565-2963  
peet@coe.unt.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE TEXAS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND  
CLASSROOM CONNECT LAUNCH "TEXAS STARGATE"**  
*Professional development portal helps Texas educators learn about the  
Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills*

**BRISBANE, CA - June 2, 2003** - In its effort to provide high quality professional development that facilitates teaching the Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TA TEKS), the Texas Center for Educational Technology (TCET) today introduced "Texas STARgate," a portal service now available to all public school districts in Texas. TCET co-developed Texas STARgate with Classroom Connect to offer a robust online resource that addresses the TA TEKS for Texas educators.

"Texas STARgate is a way to bring multiple options for technology related professional development to teachers. We see this as a solution for school districts in Texas that want to enhance the professional development they provide to their educators," said Dr. Keith Restine, Director of Texas Initiatives for TCET. "The portal centralizes professional development resources in one location, which makes it easy for teachers to find the support they need."

A custom-designed Web site, Texas STARgate was created to assist Texas school districts in the following ways:

- Help educators become successful in teaching TA TEKS.
- Enable teachers to complete the University of North Texas 5-Star Certification program, correlating to the Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) Technology Application Standards for All Beginning Teachers.
- Support the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology.
- Support Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Featuring unique flexibility for teachers, Texas STARgate offers three online course options:

(1) TCET courses – for teachers who desire online instruction with face-to-face support by a local trainer; (2) Guide-led courses – for teachers who like to complete coursework with the support of an online guide; and (3) Self-paced courses – for teachers who want to complete courses on their own.

Texas STARgate also includes: *How-To Resources*; *Recipes4Success™* tutorials on common software applications; and a searchable database of education-related Web sites and resources. For more information, visit <http://www.txstargate.net>.

The portal is partially funded by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Board. The TIF Board is a state agency in Texas created to aid the development of the telecommunications infrastructure of public schools, public libraries, higher education, and medical facilities.

Customized portal solutions are available to all states and large-scale school districts. For more information, contact Classroom Connect at (800) 638-1639.

#### **About TCET**

The Texas Center for Educational Technology (TCET) was legislatively established to support research and development activities for education. Over 14 years, TCET has grown steadily to become nationally recognized for supporting educational technology. TCET's strong commitment to education is evidenced through the following projects: The Technology Applications Certification Program, The Technology Applications Center for Educational Technology, The Technology Leadership Institute, and others. For more information, please visit <http://www.tcet.unt.edu>.

#### **About Classroom Connect**

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education. The company is devoted to helping teachers become better teachers by engaging them in their own learning and inspiring positive change in the classroom. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, Classroom Connect is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in PreK through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Educational Measurement, The Psychological Corporation, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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