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CLASSROOM CONNECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SELECTED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA LAPTOP INITIATIVE

BRISBANE, CA - Classroom Connect, an educational technology division of Harcourt, Inc., announced today that the Kershaw County School District has selected Classroom Connect as its professional development provider for the district's laptop learning initiative, the first of its kind in the state of South Carolina. 1,200 Hewlett-Packard laptops will be distributed annually to all entering ninth grade students and their teachers beginning this fall. For the first year, a \$248,000 professional development "Laptop Institute" package from Classroom Connect will train educators across the district on technology integration best practices. This is the third large-scale laptop program partnership for Hewlett-Packard and Classroom Connect, with similar initiatives currently underway in Michigan and New Mexico.

"The 'school tools' of my day were instruments like the protractor, the compass, and the slide rule. The 'tool' of today's classroom and workplace is the computer," said Kershaw County Superintendent Herbert Berg. "Classroom Connect's teacher technology training is a critical part of ensuring our students stay significantly ahead of the competition they will face once they graduate."

Classroom Connect's Laptop Institute is comprised of two components: a comprehensive technology integration program of workshops, online courses, and mentoring for teachers and an ongoing series of workshops for school leaders and administrators. Both programs provide skill development in the areas of using laptop technology in the classroom, understanding Internet tools, accessing teacher and student resources, and creating and integrating student activities and projects.

"For past 10 years Classroom Connect has seen firsthand the profound impact professional development has on a technology program's success," said Jim Bowler, President and CEO of Classroom Connect. "Robust, dynamic training on how to make the connection between laptop usage and boosting student achievement is the critical factor. We are honored to fulfill this essential aspect of the Kershaw County initiative."

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education and is focused on two core areas: Technology Integration and Customized Professional Development. The Laptop Institute is part of Classroom Connect's Technology Integration solution that also includes online, face-to-face, and print professional development options for K-12 educators. For more information, contact Classroom Connect by calling (800) 638-1639 or visit www.classroom.com.

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. Harcourt Education is part of Reed Elsevier Group plc (www.reedelsevier.com), a world-leading publisher and information provider. Reed Elsevier Group plc is owned equally by Reed Elsevier PLC (NYSE: RUK) and Reed Elsevier NV (NYSE: ENL).

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