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### **Consolidated distributes some \$39,000 to schools through Earning for Learning program**

MATTOON— Consolidated Communications continues to support the education of local children by returning a portion of the company's long distance and data service revenues to schools through its Earning for Learning (EFL) program. Almost \$40,000 was distributed to 36 local school districts and education foundations participating in the program, representing the company's third quarter contribution for 2005.

Through the EFL program, school districts and educational foundations receive 2.5 percent of revenues from Consolidated's Long Distance and 2.5 percent of Internet service revenues from the Consolidated customers in the school's area. The schools typically use the funds to keep up to date with technology. Some items purchased by schools with Earning For Learning funding include cameras, electronic books, software programs and Internet connections.

Local districts and organizations that received EFL checks for the third quarter include: Arcola District 306, \$867; Arthur EFL, \$835; Atwood-Hammond, \$597; Assumption, \$823; Charleston Excellence in Education Foundations, \$5,345; Cowden-Herrick, \$554; Edinburg, \$416; Effingham Unit 40 Educational Foundation, \$2,370; Hillsboro District 3, \$3,436; Kincaid – South Fork School District, \$559; Litchfield District 12, \$2,358; Mattoon-St. Mary's, \$102; Mattoon Foundation for Academic Excellence, \$5,362; Morrisonville District 1, \$403; Nokomis Community Unit 22, \$1,358; Oakland District 5, \$764; Pana EFL, \$2,613; Raymond-Panhandle Community Unit District 2, \$1,225; Sigel St. Michael's, \$334; Shelbyville District 4, \$2,165; Stewardson-Strasburg, \$838.91; Taylorville EFL, \$3,231; and Windsor District 1, \$785.

Since the Earning for Learning program began in 1993, Consolidated has returned more than \$2.5 million to area education foundations and school districts.

If you have questions about the program, please contact the Consolidated Communications Residential Customer Care Center at 800-553-9981.

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Founded in 1894, Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc., (NASDAQ: CNSL) is a family of companies providing advanced voice, data and video services to both business and residential customers. Services include local and long distance, dial-up and high-speed DSL Internet access, private line, carrier services, digital TV and VoIP. With service markets in Illinois and Texas, Consolidated Communications operates the 15<sup>th</sup> largest independent local telephone company in the nation. Its related businesses complement its core telecommunications business and include directory services, business systems, data networks, retail and operator services, call completion services, and fully integrated telemarketing and fulfillment services. Additional information about Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc., and its products and services is available at [www.consolidated.com](http://www.consolidated.com).

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