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**Area schools receive more than \$29,300 from Consolidated's  
Earning for Learning program**

MATTOON— Consolidated Communications recently donated more than \$29,300 to local school districts and educational organizations through its Earning for Learning (EFL) program. The disbursements represent the company's first quarter EFL contribution for 2008. Since 1993, the company has made \$2.85 million in donations to local schools through the EFL program.

Consolidated's EFL program returns 2.5 percent of long distance revenues and 2.5 percent of Internet service revenues quarterly to local school districts and education foundations.

Local districts and education associations in the company's East Region that will receive checks include: Arcola Community Unit #306, \$733; Arthur EFL, \$678; Atwood-Hammond, \$464; Charleston Excellence in Education Foundation, \$3,846; Mattoon Foundation for Academic Excellence, \$3,873; Mattoon St. Mary's School, \$90; Oakland Community Unit # 5, \$588, and Windsor Community Unit #1, \$ 681.

In all, 36 districts received \$29,362 from the EFL program for the first quarter of the year.

Chris Niebrugge, product manager, said Consolidated Communications is proud to support local school districts and education organizations through its EFL program. "The funds donated through Earning for Learning help our local schools purchase items that may not be included in the school's annual budget, such as software, electronic equipment or special projects," Niebrugge said.

Customers who have Consolidated Long Distance or subscribe to Consolidated's Internet service are automatically enrolled in the program with contributions returned to their respective school districts.

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