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**Area schools to receive more than \$33,900 from Consolidated's
Earning for Learning program**

MATTOON— Consolidated Communications will be donating more than \$33,900 to local school districts and education organizations through its Earning for Learning (EFL) program in the next few weeks. The disbursements represent the company's first quarter EFL contribution for 2007.

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

Local districts and education associations that recently received checks include: Effingham Unit 40 Education Foundation, \$1,969; Sigel St. Michael, \$298; and Stewardson-Strasburg Community Unit School District, \$785; In all, 36 districts will receive \$33,944 from the EFL program from the first quarter of the year.

Chris Niebrugge, product manager, said Consolidated has given more than \$2.7 million to area schools for education since the program began in 1993. "Consolidated Communications is proud to support the education of local students through our Earning For Learning program," Niebrugge said. "EFL funds are typically used to purchase software, electronics and books or to fund special projects."

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.