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**Consolidated's Earning For Learning program donates more than
\$37,000 to area schools**

MATTOON— Consolidated Communications recently donated more than \$37,000 to local school districts and education organizations through its Earning for Learning (EFL) program. The disbursements represent the company's first quarter EFL contribution for 2006.

Consolidated's EFL program donates 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: Arcola Community Unit #306, \$887; Arthur EFL, \$788; Atwood-Hammond, \$502; Charleston Excellence in Education Foundation, \$4,834; Mattoon Foundation for Academic Excellence, \$5,202; Mattoon St. Mary's School, \$122; Oakland Community Unit # 5, \$749, and Windsor Community Unit #1, \$738. In all, 36 districts received some \$37,164.

Chris Niebrugge, product manager, said Consolidated has given almost \$2.6 million to area schools for education since the program began in 1993. "Consolidated Communications is proud to support the education of local students through its Earning For Learning program," Niebrugge said. "Customers who have Consolidated Long Distance or subscribe to Consolidated's Internet services 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.

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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 17th 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.