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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW MEXICO STATE LAPTOP INITIATIVE CHOOSES CLASSROOM CONNECT FOR \$600,000 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

BRISBANE, CA — August 13, 2004 — The New Mexico Public Education Department has selected Classroom Connect as its professional development provider for the state's laptop learning initiative. 2,900 Hewlett-Packard laptops will be distributed to 7th grade students and their teachers throughout the state beginning in the 2004-2005 school year. A \$600,000 professional development package from Classroom Connect will train educators across New Mexico on technology integration best practices and give students access to the company's nationally acclaimed student online technology integration program. This is the second large-scale laptop program partnership for Hewlett-Packard and Classroom Connect, with a similar initiative currently underway in Michigan.

"Classroom Connect's technology integration training and programs will play a vital role in ensuring teaching success and thus increase student achievement gains in New Mexico," said the Education Technology Consultant for the State of New Mexico, Michelle M. Lewis. "The purpose of this project is to improve student learning and we realize that the key to student improvement is teacher professional development."

Classroom Connect will provide a comprehensive combination of workshops and teacher mentoring, as well as a student technology literacy program to fulfill the needs of the laptop initiative. All educators will be able to take part in several training workshops on basic software applications, small-group technology integration coaching sessions, and several multi-day institutes focused on technology integration and classroom management.

All of the laptops will feature *Connected Tech*, Classroom Connect's program that helps students learn lifelong technology application skills. The program offers over 450 tutorials, lessons, projects, and assessments that teachers can use to help students learn some of today's most important technology applications in the context of reading and language arts, math, science and social studies.

"The New Mexico Public Education Department and Hewlett Packard have recognized that providing access to technology, along with the right teacher professional development, is the winning combination to realizing overall student achievement," said James Bowler, President and CEO of Classroom Connect. "Professional development is the critical factor in a technology program's success and we are honored to fulfill this essential aspect of the New Mexico laptop initiative."

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Classroom Connect is focused on two core areas: Technology Integration and Customized Professional Development. The workshops, camps, coaching and Connected Tech are a part of the Technology Integration solution that also includes online, face-to-face, and print professional development options for K-12 educators. The Customized Professional Development solution features workshops and conferences, as well as eSchool® Online, an Internet-based platform for meeting the unique staff development needs of educators. For more information, contact Classroom Connect by calling (800) 638-1639 or visit www.classroom.com.

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education. 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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