



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Horse Rider Turns to Virtual Schooling

Oregon Connections Academy Offers Flexibility

Scio, OR (March 12, 2010) -- Horse riding is a passion for Meagan Gravelle, an 8th grader from Tangent who attends Oregon Connections Academy (ORCA). Meagan has been showing and riding horses since she was six years old and has a full calendar of competition this spring. ORCA is Oregon's largest virtual public charter school.

Meagan credits part of her success to Oregon Connections Academy for giving her the flexibility she needs for school work. "ORCA is very challenging," said Meagan. "I can do extra work one day in order to stay caught up. The teachers help, and if I need a day off for a show, I can do that."

This spring she will compete in barrel racing in Canby, attend the Linn County Spring Horse Classic and a statewide contest for Hippology (the study of horses). She will also be in the St. Johns Parade and the Salem Rodeo.

"Megan is positive and upbeat and loves to talk about all of her horse related activities," noted Katie Wallig, Megan's 8th grade Social Studies and Advisory teacher. "ORCA works well for her because she is able to work at her own pace and can do assignments in ways that fit with her strengths."

Her dreams for the future include majoring in Equine Science at Oregon State University. "I would like to make it to national finals rodeo in barrel racing and possibly world competition with my horse," said Meagan.

She is a member of 4H in Linn County, the Oregon Family Equestrian Association, the Oregon Horseman's Association, and the American Quarter Horse Association.

About Oregon Connections Academy

Oregon Connections Academy is a charter school that serves students in Oregon state-wide in grades K-12. It opened in August 2005 after being authorized by the Scio School District 95C and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools. The school is a non-profit institution that is governed by an independent volunteer board of directors. The school is operated under contract to Connections Academy, a leading national provider of high-quality,

highly accountable virtual public schools in fourteen states operated in partnership with charter schools, school districts, and state departments of education. Connections Academy schools deliver top quality, personalized education for students that combines certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences to create a supportive and successful environment for children who want an individualized approach to education. In Connections Academy's Personalized Performance Learning® approach, students use daily lesson plans and curriculum materials provided by Connections Academy.

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