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OREGON CONNECTIONS ACADEMY REACHES GOALS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

OREGON – Oregon Connections Academy (ORCA), a high-quality, highly accountable virtual public “e-school,” has met No Child Left Behind reading, math and overall Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measures for the 2006-07 school year. AYP is based on standardized test participation and performance by all categories of students in a school, from low-income students to gifted students to children with disabilities.

“Our enrollment more than doubled this year and we are pleased that for our first reporting year, we have met AYP. I am proud of our exceptional, highly qualified teachers and the excellent education we provide for students throughout Oregon,” said Jerry Wilks, ORCA principal. “Meeting AYP means we are finding effective ways to use innovative learning technology, such as our Learning Management System, to ensure individualized academic success for all of our diverse students – regardless of their gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic and special education status.”

ORCA has been operating in Oregon since 2005, serving students in kindergarten through 11th grade, with the addition of 12th grade planned for the 2008-09 school year. ORCA is designed to meet the needs of students and families who are looking for an alternative to the traditional classroom – those who need a flexible schedule, learn at a different pace from their peers, are looking for a different learning environment or want more individualized attention. The school serves a wide range of students, including those who are significantly ahead or behind in the classroom, previously homeschooled students and students who may be homebound due to a medical situation or other condition. In the 2006-07 school year ORCA served approximately 1,500 students.

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About Oregon Connections Academy

Oregon Connections Academy is a public, virtual charter school authorized by the Scio School District 95C school board. The school is approved as a nonprofit corporation and is operated by an independent Board of Directors. The school accepts students in grades K-11 from anywhere in Oregon.

About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading national provider of high quality, highly accountable virtual public schools in thirteen 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 unique Personalized Performance Learning® approach, students use daily lesson plans and curriculum materials provided by Connections Academy. Teachers develop a learning plan for each student, whose progress is tracked through a proprietary, web-based Learning Management System. In 2007-08 Connections Academy will serve students in grades K-11 in Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Maryland (Baltimore County), and Pennsylvania; grades 4-11 in Nevada; grades K-9 in Colorado; grades K-8 in Florida and Wisconsin; grades K-5 in Missouri. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit www.connectionsacademy.com