



## **Windstream to Award \$100,000 for Technology in Public Schools**

### **'Classroom Connections' Includes Additional \$50,000 for 'Spirit Awards'**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 10, 2010 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN) announced today it will award \$100,000 for technology-related upgrades in public schools throughout the company's service territory in 2010. This is the second year for Windstream to offer the Classroom Connections program.

All public and public charter schools in areas where Windstream offers residential phone and high-speed Internet service are encouraged to apply for the Classroom Connections donation. Four \$25,000 donations will be made in May. Only one school in each school district will receive an award.

In addition, Windstream will distribute \$50,000 in the form of Spirit Awards. Up to 10 Spirit Awards worth \$5,000 each will be awarded in September based on public online voting. Schools that are not recipients of the four \$25,000 donations will be eligible for Spirit Awards.

Schools must apply online and are required to submit a video demonstrating need for the donation.

"In challenging economic times, programs like Classroom Connections can make a huge difference in the lives of the students and teachers in the communities we serve," said Ron Proleika, vice president of marketing communications for Windstream. "And now, more than ever, our young people need every tool available so that they can actively engage in a world-class education."

Classroom Connections applications and videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges, including Windstream executives and outside leaders in the technology and education industries that the company selects.

A complete overview of the Classroom Connections program, instructions for applying and submitting videos, a listing of Windstream service areas and the winning videos from 2009, can be found online at [www.windstream.com/classroom](http://www.windstream.com/classroom). The deadline to apply is March 19.

#### **About Windstream**

Windstream Corporation is an S&P 500 company with about \$3.7 billion in annual revenues. Windstream provides phone, high-speed Internet and high-definition digital TV services to customers in 21 states. The company also offers a wide range of IP-based voice and data services and advanced phone systems and equipment to businesses and government agencies. For more information about Windstream, visit [www.windstream.com](http://www.windstream.com).

The Windstream Corporation logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=7044>

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