

## **Classroom Connect's K-12 Programs Earn Approval of Texas Educational Authorities**

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 5

Classroom Connect today at the Texas Computer Education Association 2002 Convention & Exposition (Booth 614), announced that it has gained two new approvals from Texas educational authorities. The Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) has named Classroom Connect's Connected University(R) an approved provider of Continuing Professional Education, and Classroom Connect itself is now a Qualified Information System Vendor (QISV) with the Texas General Services Commission. These are the most recent in a total of four approvals that Classroom Connect has received from the state's authorities.

The SBEC approval allows educators to obtain the required hours for renewing their Standard Certificates through Connected University's online courses. The QISV designation means that school districts and administrators no longer have to go through a bid process to make large purchases of Classroom Connect's programs and services. The QISV catalog system, run by PublicBuy.net (the Texas State e-Marketplace provider), lists the eligible programs: Classroom Connect Now, Connected University, Classroom Learning, Classroom Today(TM), and The Quest Channel(TM).

"Classroom Connect's resources are not only aligned to state standards but also to the standards of the International Society for Technology in Education," said Judith Hamilton, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. "We are deeply committed to offering the highest-quality professional development programs and standards-based learning materials, and our strong presence in Texas signifies that we're achieving our objective."

Previously, Texas' Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) approved Connected University as a professional development resource in the state's technology infrastructure and training grant program. In addition, Classroom Connect holds a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) certification from the Texas Education Agency.

### About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, Inc., a business unit within Harcourt, Inc., is a leading provider of professional learning and online classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, with offices in El Segundo, CA, Minneapolis, MN, and Abilene, TX, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its primary product brands include: Connected University(R) (online professional development); Classroom Today(TM) (online classroom learning resources); The Quest Channel(TM) (online adventure learning expeditions); Connected Conferences(TM) (live, nationwide events); Connected Workshops(TM) (on-site seminars); and Classroom Connect Newsletter(TM) (monthly Internet education journal). Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, The Franklin Institute Online, the Library of Congress and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company's Web site at [www.classroom.com](http://www.classroom.com) or call 800-638-1639.

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