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 A Harcourt Education Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

CLASSROOM CONNECT® ANNOUNCES THE ACQUISITION OF ACTV'S eSCHOOL® ONLINE BUSINESS

BRISBANE, CA - Nov. 4, 2003 - Classroom Connect®, Inc., a Harcourt Education company that provides award-winning professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education, today announced that it has acquired the assets of ACTV's online education business, eSchool® Online (www.eschoolonline.com). ACTV is a subsidiary of OpenTV®, one of the world's leading interactive television companies.

eSchool Online is a leader in delivering customized, multiple media-rich online professional development content and K-12 curriculum courseware to large urban school districts, state education departments, and major educational publishers. Since 1997, the patented eSchool Online platform, particularly in the area of video and Web convergence, has led the way in defining and refining the presentation and delivery of broadband content to an educational marketplace largely dependent upon a narrowband delivery infrastructure.

"We are excited to add eSchool Online to the suite of professional development offerings that Classroom Connect provides," said Jim Bowler, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. "eSchool Online's proprietary software platform and high-level relationships with key school districts nationwide present clear synergies with our business strategy, and will enable us to bring high quality professional development to even more customers who are in need of improving teacher quality in their schools."

As a division of Classroom Connect, eSchool Online will also serve as a development resource for all Harcourt Education companies as they expand delivery of online professional development content to their respective customers.

Bruce J. Crowley, president of ACTV HyperTV Networks, Inc., added, "We are very pleased to have eSchool Online join Classroom Connect and be a part of the Harcourt Education family. It's a great opportunity and our company is well suited to team up with such an educational publishing powerhouse. Classroom Connect and Harcourt provide the perfect fit for the eSchool Online business and our people."

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect is an award-winning provider of professional development programs and online instructional materials for K-12 education. The company is devoted to helping teachers become better teachers by engaging them in their own learning and inspiring positive change in the classroom. 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.

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About Classroom Connect, continued

The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Assessment, The Psychological Corporation, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>

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