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For Immediate Release

RECORD YEAR FOR *K-12 CONNECTIONS* BROADCASTED OVER ICN

(Des Moines, Iowa) -- *K-12 Connections* soars to new heights breaking the previous record of videoconferencing hours utilizing the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) *K-12 Connections* had the best year recorded, generating over 9,820 videoconferencing hours delivered over the ICN's fiber-optic Network during the 2009-2010 school year. This is an increase of videoconferencing hours by 1,602 from Fiscal Year 2009, and exceeds the previous record set in Fiscal Year 2008, which generated 9,264 hours. Over 32,000 Iowa students, educators, and school personnel benefited from distance learning opportunities. Users learn through live, interactive sessions without worrying about travel time or gas prices. *K-12 Connections* sessions were provided at no cost to the students, teachers, or school districts.

Through the free *K-12 Connections* experience, students explore worlds near and far, interacting live with presenters. Professional development sessions are provided for teachers and other district staff. Topics this last school year included: *Read Across America* series, an *Iowa Capitol Virtual Tour*, and *Financial Literacy* sessions for students; *Child Safety in the Outdoor Play/Learning Environment* and *Emergency Preparedness in Child Nutrition Programs* for educators; and certification classes for school personnel.

High school students also continue to benefit academically from high school, college-credit, and Advanced Placement classes offered over the ICN. During the 2009-2010 academic year, classes in foreign languages and health science and medicine were offered to students, via the ICN, through high school class-sharing agreements or by two and four-year colleges.

Iowa's state-administered, fiber-optic Network makes it possible for instructors and learners physically separated by location to participate in interactive educational events in an efficient, creative, and cost-effective manner. While providing support and resources for educators and students, ICN and IPTV are committed to the continued enhancement of distance learning.

To find out more about the ICN visit www.icn.state.ia.us. For more information on how your child's school can participate in *K-12 Connections* learning sessions, visit www.k12connections.iptv.org.

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