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**ASSET EDUCATION PORTAL POWERED BY CLASSROOM CONNECT
NAMED FINALIST IN SOFTWARE INDUSTRY'S TOP AWARD**

BRISBANE, CA — January 3, 2003 —Arizona School Services through Educational Technology (ASSET) and Classroom Connect today announced that their co-developed ASSET Education Portal has been named a finalist in the Software & Information Industry Association's Codie Awards. Recognized in the "Best K-16 Educational Total Comprehensive Solution" category, the ASSET Education Portal, <http://www.asset.asu.edu>, is a partnership project between ASSET and Classroom Connect to provide professional development resources and curriculum materials for all of Arizona's K-12 public school educators.

"Since its launch in June of 2002, the ASSET Education Portal has proven itself an invaluable tool for the teachers of Arizona. They can easily take customized professional development courses, as well as use the wealth of curriculum resources available on the portal," said Kathryn Kilroy, executive director of ASSET. "With Classroom Connect's help we have built a site that can be customized to the individual needs of educators and puts all of ASSET's classroom resources at their fingertips."

Through the Education Portal, teachers have access to select professional development courses from Classroom Connect's online professional development product, Connected University®, as well as five Arizona-specific customized courses built on Connected University templates. Teachers may also select from a variety of PBS TeacherLine courses.

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All professional development resources found within the portal are integrated into the MyCompass technology assessment system provided by iAssessment, that helps teachers match their technology integration skills with the most appropriate professional development opportunity.

The site also contains a lesson plan library, the UnitedStreaming video collection, online forums, and links to reviewed Web sites such as PBS TeacherSource, as well as other digital and multimedia resources.

“We are honored to have the ASSET Education Portal as a finalist for the Codie Awards,” said Pat Harrigan, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. “We believe the portal is a groundbreaking step in providing customized, online professional development for specific states’ needs. This was a completely collaborative effort on the part of ASSET and Classroom Connect and by being named a finalist in the top software awards program in the country proves this collaboration has paid off.”

“The Codie Awards finalists reflect the very best products and services produced by the creative code and content industry. These companies should all be congratulated for their tremendous work,” said Ken Wasch, SIIA president. “The finalists all make clear that the digital code and content industry is as vibrant and innovative as ever.”

About the Software & Information Industry Association

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 800 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit <http://www.sii.net>.

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About Arizona School Services through Educational Technology (ASSET)

ASSET provides educators in Arizona with access to the latest professional development opportunities and instructional tools for classroom-related technology. The organization is supported by grants, as well as a membership structure and is the educational arm of KAET Public Television at Arizona State University Membership is open to all public school districts, private, charter, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and home school families. ASSET's primary service is providing curricular resources and professional development related to technology integration for K-12 educators in Arizona. For more information about visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.asset.asu.edu>.

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect is a leading provider of professional development programs and online instructional content for K-12 education. Classroom Connect, headquartered in Brisbane, CA, 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. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Harcourt Supplemental Publishers (including the Rigby and Steck-Vaughn imprints), Harcourt Educational Measurement, The Psychological Corporation, Harcourt Interactive Technology, Classroom Connect, Harcourt Canada, Harcourt Religion Publishers, and Harcourt Trade Publishers. For further information, please visit <http://www.harcourt.com>.

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