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100,000 Students, Parents and Teachers Submit National Speak Up Surveys in Just Four Weeks

**Survey Data Can Inform States and School Districts Applying for
*Race to the Top and Investing in Innovation (i3) Grants***

National Survey Closes December 18th: <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/>

Irvine, Calif. – As states and school districts are preparing and submitting their proposals for school innovations to the federal government, students, parents and teachers from around the country are weighing in with their own thoughts on improving American education. In less than four weeks, more than 100,000 individuals have already participated in Speak Up 2009 by completing the annual online survey. The deadline for submission is December 18th. Speak Up is facilitated each year by Project Tomorrow, the nation's leading education nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering student voices in education issues.

The Speak Up results each year provide important insights to help local, state and national leaders improve teaching and learning through the effective use of emerging technologies such as online learning, Web 2.0, mobile devices, games and digital content. In addition, schools and districts who participate in Speak Up gain free online access to their own aggregated data from their respondents – with national benchmark data for comparison. The Speak Up 2009 National Findings will be released in Washington DC in spring 2010 in a special Congressional Briefing.

“In addition to giving education stakeholders – students, parents, teachers and administrators – the opportunity to be heard, the annual Speak Up survey is an excellent source of information that has a meaningful impact on education,” said Chris Rother, senior vice president sales, CDW. “The Speak Up report provides valuable insight on the trends and technologies that are shaping education, giving educators a ‘watch and explore’ list to guide their technology plans.”

Individual participation and responses provided in the Speak Up survey are completely confidential and completing the online survey takes only 20 minutes. The Speak Up surveys are open to every public and private school and district in the United States, American schools on military bases and other interested schools worldwide.

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For the first time, Speak Up includes a special survey for college students in teacher preparation programs. This exclusive set of data from the next generation of teachers will be compared with data from our nation's current teaching force to better understand the obstacles to leveraging technology to drive student achievement. Also, for the first time, parents are asked to identify the qualities that they think represent a great teacher.

The 2009 online survey – open now through December 18th for all K-12 students, parents, teachers, pre-service teachers and administrators at <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/> – offers the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered input on education and technology from those ‘on the ground’ in the schools.

Since 2003, more than 1.5 million K-12 students, teachers, and parents from more than 18,000 schools in all 50 states have participated in Speak Up. The online survey is facilitated by Project Tomorrow and supported by many of our nation's most innovative companies including Blackboard, Inc., CDW-G, K12, Inc., Schoolwires, SMART Technologies and Wimba. A network of more than 75 of the nation's leading education associations and organizations including iNACOL, the National School Boards Association, State Education Technology Directors Association and the Southern Region Education Board assist Project Tomorrow by providing input for survey questions and outreach to schools nationwide.

About Project Tomorrow

Speak Up is a national initiative of Project Tomorrow, the nation's leading education nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that today's students are well prepared to be tomorrow's innovators, leaders and engaged citizens of the world. The Speak Up data represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder input on education, technology, 21st century skills, schools of the future and science instruction. Education, business and policy leaders report use the data regularly to inform federal, state and local education programs. For additional information, visit www.tomorrow.org.

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