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**SPEAK UP 2006 SURVEY SHOWS THAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS
WANT GREATER INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN SCIENCE AND
MATH COURSES**

***TEACHERS WANT MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN INTEGRATING
TECHNOLOGY***

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 21, 2007 –The results of the fourth annual 2006 Speak Up survey, released today at a Congressional briefing sponsored by US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chair Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), reveal striking contrasts between projected science, mathematics, engineering and technology skills needed by the 21st Century workforce and many practices in schools.

More than half of parents and teachers who participated in the survey said their schools are not doing a good job of preparing today's students to compete for jobs and careers of the 21st century. As for students, the survey indicates that the top ways they want to learn science and mathematics are through real-world problem solving, visiting places where science is in action, talking to professionals in those fields, and using multimedia and interactive simulations.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of participating teachers said their students are more engaged as a result of technology with corresponding increases in student achievement. However, more than two-thirds of parents surveyed stated they were not satisfied with how well technology is integrated into core academic subjects at school.

“In order to prepare students for a successful future, their learning environment needs to be a reflection of what they will experience in the workforce. By incorporating technology into every element of education, from access in the classrooms and beyond,

to integration into curriculum, we can ensure that our students are ready for a variety of workplace environments,” said Karen Bruett, VP, K-12 Business Development at Dell. “As the leading provider of technology to education, we at Dell find this real-world feedback incredibly valuable. It helps us to create technology solutions that improve teaching and learning in ways that teachers and students find both engaging and effective.”

“The survey shows that much more needs to be done to equip our classrooms with technology, train our teachers to integrate technology into their curricula, and involve our parents in the use of technology in education. Most importantly, this survey shows that technology presents a unique opportunity to engage students in their core-curricular subjects, such as math and science, by providing them the high tech tools that raise their levels of interest in this coursework,” said Julie Evans, CEO Project Tomorrow-NetDay.

The 2006 Speak Up survey also uncovered interesting findings with regard to privacy issues and communication methods:

- More than two-thirds of parents and teachers are increasingly concerned with privacy and online safety issues associated with technology use.
- The key concerns for students are: annoying limitations of spam, unequal digital access and online cheating. Only 25 percent of students are worried about online safety and privacy issues.
- Today’s students (54 percent) are increasingly establishing connections with other students outside of their immediate school or neighborhood through technology and virtual tools such as email, IM, gaming sites and personal websites. This new kind of connected-ness is redefining the definition of “friend” for the 21st century.
- The favorite communications tool for students is a cell phone. Over two-thirds of students and parents believe that students should be able to bring a cell phone to school to use in emergency situations.

- Technology is changing the nature of parental involvement in schools as 41 percent of parents and 71 percent of teachers favor using emails and school websites as a means of communications.

These are among the insights revealed in the fourth annual Speak Up survey facilitated by Project Tomorrow, a national education nonprofit group. This online survey collected the ideas and views of 270,000 K-12 students and their teachers and parents from all 50 states on technology, math and science instruction, 21st century skills, global collaborations, communications and self-expression, and schools of the future. Since 2003, more than 857,000 students, teachers and parents have participated in the annual online Speak Up surveys which are open to all schools. This survey was the first to provide parents an opportunity to participate in Speak Up with their own survey.

Project Tomorrow salutes the Speak Up 2006 sponsors: BellSouth Foundation, Dell, Inc., William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Advanced Network & Services and recognizes the national outreach support provided by the State Education Technology Directors' Association (SETDA), Google and our network of almost 100 nonprofit education, community and business groups.

ABOUT SPEAK UP FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Speak Up is a national initiative of Project Tomorrow (www.tomorrow.org), a national education nonprofit group based in Irvine, California. Project Tomorrow was formed from the merger of NetDay, a national education technology nonprofit with a Southern California based science education nonprofit group in September 2005. The vision of Project Tomorrow is to insure that today's students are well prepared to be tomorrow's innovators, leaders and engaged citizens of the world. The organization believes that by supporting the innovative uses of science, math and technology resources in our K-12 schools and communities, students will develop the critical thinking, problem solving and creativity skills needed to compete and thrive in the 21st century.

Since 2003, Speak Up has surveyed over 857,000 K-12 students, their teachers and parents representing over 10,000 schools in all 50 states through an annual online survey event held each fall. The Speak Up data represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder input on education, technology, 21st century skills, and math and science instruction, and the data is used regularly by education, business and policy leaders to inform federal, state and local education programs.