



**For Immediate Release:
October 21, 2009**

**Contact:
Amber Taylor, 703-276-2772, ext. 17**

Students, Parents and Teachers Can Share Their Opinions on Schools with Local and National Leaders

The 2009 Speak Up Survey is Open Now Through December 19th
<http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/>

Irvine, Calif. – More than 300,000 surveys are expected to be completed online by students, teachers, parents and administrators during Speak Up 2009. The national survey opened this week and is available to all schools around the country. The results provide important insights about education, technology and student aspirations to individual schools, state departments of education and national leaders.

“Each year more schools sign up to be part of Speak Up because it offers them – their students, parents and staff – a way to express their opinions about the future of learning, local and national policies, how teaching could be improved and more,” said Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, the survey’s facilitator and a national leader in empowering students to have a voice in improving education in the 21st century.

“The information is invaluable to the schools who participate, and the elected leaders at all levels who use Speak Up data as a way to gauge opinions on a range of educational issues,” added Evans.

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.

For the first time, the survey will ask students about their interest in teaching careers and will include pre-service teachers to get a sense of how the next generation of teachers may differ (or reflect) the opinions of current educators.

In addition to sharing their insights, schools and districts who participate in Speak Up gain free online access to their own aggregated quantitative data – with national benchmark data for comparison. National data findings will be released during two Congressional Briefings in spring 2010.

- more -

Speak Up Opens, Page 2 of 2

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.

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.

###