



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Proposals Received From 200 Area Schools
Seeking an Allegheny Energy \$30,000 TechConnect Grant**

Hagerstown, Md., May 24, 2001 – Two hundred area schools have submitted proposals for using a portion of the \$300,000 in TechConnect Classroom Technology Grants offered this year by Allegheny Energy. Later this year, 10 schools will be awarded \$30,000 grants to purchase computer hardware and enhance their instruction of math and the sciences.

The TechConnect Program is an important part of Allegheny Energy's Corporate Giving Program, which contributes annually to a wide variety of community needs including local United Way agencies, volunteer fire companies, museums, and education. By supporting technology in schools, the Company can help provide communities with highly skilled and diverse employees and increase economic development opportunities.

"We are excited that the first year rollout of our TechConnect Program received such an enthusiastic response from schools in our five-state service area," said Victoria Schaff, Allegheny Energy's Vice President, External Affairs. "It is encouraging to see that many schools are vigorously looking for assistance so they can continue improving their technology programs in math and science for students. Our TechConnect Grants can help schools in rural areas close the 'digital divide' by providing students with greater access to on-line services."

Public and private schools, grades kindergarten through 12, were eligible to submit proposals for using the TechConnect grants to purchase computers, printers, servers, and other equipment that focus on science and math instruction. The grants, part of the Company's corporate contributions program, are aimed at enhancing students' access to technology in classrooms throughout the region.

In February, the Company sent more than 1,500 TechConnect grant applications to schools in its five-state area, which includes parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. A committee of educators and business leaders will evaluate the grant proposals and select winning applicants. Allegheny Energy will award the 10 TechConnect grants of \$30,000 each to schools during October.

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Allegheny Energy has a legacy of supporting technology in schools, donating more than \$6 million in computers to area schools in the 1980s. Last year, after surveying educators and community leaders throughout the region, the research showed that schools still identified a need for help in providing students with better access to technology, especially in math and science. To assist schools in meeting students' needs, Allegheny Energy created its new TechConnect Program, and, in a pilot program last fall, awarded its first \$30,000 TechConnect grant to South Hagerstown High School in Washington County, Md.

To find out more about the TechConnect Program, visit its web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com/techconnect.

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. We have been named to the *Fortune* 500 list, the Standard and Poor's 500 index, and the *Forbes* "Platinum 400" list. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers electric energy and natural gas to about three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation and operates regulated electric generation for its affiliates; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which actively invests in and develops telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, check our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.