



Connect Ohio/Ohio Telecom Association Digital Day provides 400 new computers to Ohio students

OTA member companies distribute computers at more than 40 sites throughout state

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COLUMBUS, OH – A partnership between Gov. Ted Strickland's Connect Ohio initiative and the member companies of the Ohio Telecom Association provided 400 new computers to more than 40 community-based organizations serving Ohio students on Monday. As part of the No Child Left Offline program, thousands of Ohio students will benefit by having access to the Internet outside of school hours. Connect Ohio coordinated the effort, which was underwritten by a \$100,000 donation by OTA members.

"The Ohio Telecom Association is pleased to be associated with Connect Ohio and honored to be a part of the No Child Left Offline program," said Charley Moses, president of Ohio Telecom Association. "Each of our member companies was able to distribute free computers to needy families, schools and community organizations within their territories to help give children access to computers that they otherwise may not have had."

Connect Ohio and the Ohio Telecom Association believe that all Ohio school children need access to computers and broadband Internet outside of school hours" said Tom Fritz, Connect Ohio's executive director. "It will help them expand their creativity; perform better in school and eventually allow them to take their technology know-how into the workplace," he said.

Even though computers are universal in classrooms, nearly 20 million America school children do not have computers at their homes. According to Connect Ohio's 2008 Ohio Residential Technology Assessment, more than 844,000 students throughout Ohio do not have home computers.

The No Child Left Offline brings together public and private partners and places computers in the hands of disadvantaged students and gives them access to the many benefits associated with today's technology, Fritz said. For more information about the program, visit: www.connectohio.org/nclo

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About Connect Ohio: *As a public-private partnership, Connect Ohio works with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the state. For more information about what Connect Ohio is doing to accelerate technology in Ohio's communities, visit: www.connectohio.org.*

About the Ohio Telecom Association: *OTA is a statewide trade association that promotes the common interests of telecommunications companies serving and employing Ohioans. For more information, visit: www.ohiotelecom.com*