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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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10 High School Students Win Grants for Environmental Projects

National winners develop projects to solve problems and their schools and communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Ten high school students with great ideas and \$1,000 will each be undertaking projects including building organic gardens, producing model environmental houses and initiating pilot programs for sustainable lunch trays in their school cafeterias after being selected as this year's Planet Connect grant winners.

Planet Connect (www.planet-connect.org), created in partnership with The Weather Channel, offers environmentally minded teens job and volunteer opportunities, information on careers and universities and social networking capabilities allowing them to share success stories and environmental tips with peers around the country and the world.

This year's grant winners will complete the projects – which they designed themselves – and produce photos and videos of their projects for Planet Connect's Web site. Most grant winners will also work in summer environmental internships in their communities.

"This is an impressive group of students who are not only demonstrating a commitment to protecting the environment and appreciating nature, but have come up with creative and effective ideas for solving the problems that they see," said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation. "Their unique projects will inspire their classmates and their communities, and we're proud to support their efforts."

"The Planet Connect grants are great, because they offer students an opportunity to positively impact their communities and environment," said Bennie F. Adams III, a ninth-grade English teacher at Duvall High School in Lanham, Md. "The internships also offer the students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience to help prepare them for the green economy."

The grants were made possible with funding from the NBC Universal Foundation.

In addition to devising the projects, the students also produced detailed budgets, enlisted the help of community members and classmates and will seek media attention when their projects are

completed. The grants were made possible with additional funding from the NBC Universal Foundation.

Planet Connect 2010 grantees:

Daniel Brooks, Miami, Fla.

"Every Drop Counts," water conservation/usage project

Kevin Dumler, Upland, Calif.

"Upland High School Composting," composting/recycling program

Andrew Hayford, Cape Neddick, Maine

"Blue Ocean," ocean pollution education campaign

Laura Hurst, Erie, Pa.

"Green Design Dollhouse," model eco-home

Lisa Junta, Springfield, Va.

"Green Tray Project," reusable lunch tray pilot program

MerryJean Losso, Baton Rouge, La.

"Growing Green and Growing Clean," school garden project

Sana Neseem, Avenel, N.J.

"Eco-Motion," energy saving pilot program

Reynaldo Pacheco, Porterville, Calif.

"EcoGarden," school garden project

Sarah Reid, Edmond, Okla.

"Serve Our Food, Serve Our Earth," sustainable cafeteria pilot program

Mariama Souley Dounda, Waldorf, Md.

"Plastic Bottle Art," litter/recycling awareness project

To learn more about each project, visit: <http://www.planet-connect.org/fall09winners>. To set up interviews with Planet Connect grant winners, please contact Dan Seligson, NEEF's communications director, at dseligson@neefusa.org or 202-261-6481.

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THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, visit www.neefusa.org.

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according to Nielsen Net Ratings. The Weather Channel also operates The Weather Channel HD; Weatherscan, a 24-hour, all-local weather network; The Weather Channel Radio Network; The Weather Channel Newspaper Services; and is the leading weather information provider for emerging technologies. This includes broadband and interactive television applications and wireless weather products including the most popular content site on the Mobile Web. In September 2008, The Weather Channel Companies were purchased by a consortium made up of NBC Universal and the private equity firms The Blackstone Group and Bain Capital. For more information, visit www.weather.com/press.