

PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Donates More Than \$775,000 to Teachers Through National Education Grant Program

ST. PAUL, Minn., Nov 05, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- In keeping with its quarter of a century tradition of supporting community schools, Ecolab Inc. has awarded more than \$775,000 in 2009 through its Ecolab Foundation's *Visions for Learning* grant program in 12 communities across the U.S., with \$190,000 distributed in the St. Paul area. More than 300 schools and thousands of students benefited from the program this year nationwide.

"Ecolab has always consistently supported education, utilizing a variety of means," said Douglas M. Baker, Ecolab's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "The focus of the *Visions for Learning* grant program is to help augment the classroom curriculum for students in grades K-12 by providing additional classroom materials to help reach learning goals. We know teachers frequently spend personal funds on materials to improve the learning experience for their students. We feel strongly that partnering with teachers to improve classroom materials and their availability helps student achievement."

Suzanne Kelly, Interim Superintendent of Saint Paul Public Schools commented, saying, "Ecolab's longstanding partnership with the Saint Paul Public Schools is a testament to the company's commitment to supporting excellence in education. Ecolab sets an example of strong corporate involvement by contributing time, talent and resources to our community and our students."

Since the inception of the program, nearly \$6 million has been distributed nationally through the *Visions for Learning* program supporting teachers and schools across the country. The *Visions for Learning* grants are given to kindergarten through-12th grade teachers to support and engage students, helping them to achieve at-grade level in basic skills and enrich the classroom experience. Projects funded this year included materials for biotechnology kits used to explore the technology of DNA, materials for a Family Literacy Program and curriculum materials for a multicultural and ecological study of plants, animals and people in their environments across the globe. In total, the Ecolab Foundation will contribute over \$6 million in 2009 to communities where Ecolab associates live and work.

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at www.ecolab.com.

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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