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For more information, contact:

Bonnie Lorang - 406-444-6191

VIDEOCONFERENCE ON FEDERAL E-RATE PROGRAM SET FOR JUNE 15

The current and future status of the federal e-rate program for schools and libraries will be the subject of a workshop to be broadcast at six Montana videoconferencing sites on Tuesday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mickey Revenaugh, a representative of the Schools & Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company which operates the e-rate program, will present information about the program. Workshop participants at each of the six sites will be able to discuss their concerns and questions about the program with her and the other participants.

The federal e-rate program provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. Funded at up to \$2.25 billion annually, the program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections. Montana schools and libraries have received funding commitments for \$3,622,895 worth of discounts last year and applications are now being accepted for this year's program.

The presentation will be broadcast from the videoconference site at 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative's office in Fairfield and will be viewable at the following additional locations:

- Ennis High School
- Glasgow High School
- Salish Kootenai Community College in Pablo
- Havre High School
- Project Telephone Co.'s office in Worden at 2457 Main St.

The six videoconference sites will be hosted at no charge to participants by Vision Net and its member telephone companies, Triangle Telephone Cooperative, 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Northern Telephone Cooperative and Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative.

Persons who are interested or involved with the e-rate program are encouraged to take advantage of this educational and training opportunity. Registration forms are available by calling Bonnie Lorang, Public Service Commission, at 406-444-6191, or Michael Hall, Office of Public Instruction, at 406-444-4422. Registration must be completed by June 11. Attendance is limited by the size of each videoconference site.

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