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FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS' INVESTMENT IN YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT ENABLES NEW DIGITAL WRITING TOOLS IN FOUR NORTHERN VERMONT SCHOOLS

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (October 7, 2009) – This fall students in Enosburg Falls, Grand Isle, Milton and St. Albans will have a more authentic writing experience now that FairPoint Communications has invested in the Young Writers Project's expansion of leading-edge Digital Writing Classrooms to four more northern Vermont schools.

Teachers from Enosburg Middle School, Grand Isle School, Milton High School and St. Albans Town Educational Center will be trained on how to use Digital Writing Classrooms which are private, fully supported Web sites. This training will provide a greater knowledge of the program and allow teachers to better educate their students on innovative ways of writing. FairPoint's \$34,000 investment will enable the training and provide for technical and program support.

"We promote the power of innovative and effective use of broadband technologies, and encourage strong writing skills that are essential for success in school and in the workplace," said Pam Joy, vice president of community affairs for FairPoint. "Our investment in the Young Writers Project and Vermont teachers will give students new Web-based tools to enhance their writing skills."

"We believe that providing an audience for student writing motivates young writers to try harder, learn more and write better. Receiving objective, positive feedback helps them gain confidence and grow, and giving feedback to others improves their critical thinking skills," said Geoffrey Gevalt, executive director of the Young Writers Project. "We are grateful for FairPoint's support because it enables more students to benefit from a richer learning experience."

The Young Writers Project engages students to write and improve their skills and provides a place to publish their best work in six daily newspapers and in a variety of other media and stage presentations. Its primary Web site – youngwritersproject.org

– is a safe, comfortable place where teens share writing examples with their peers and build a community of writers.

Digital Writing Classrooms enable students to upload digital images and create slide shows with sound to accompany personal essays. Students learn to develop audio stories based on interviews with people in their school or community. Wikis – or class documents – are used to summarize and discuss key literary elements of books. Video documentaries can be developed based on stories, topics or essays created by students, and digital stories – images, sound and writing – are created on a wide range of topics. In addition, this program connects K-12 students with mentors from local colleges.

FairPoint's community giving program is primarily focused on making targeted community investments for improving the quality of life in the communities it serves through effective use of broadband technologies. FairPoint supports initiatives that deliver safe and innovative applications of these technologies that can improve the ways communities connect to information, services, opportunities and to each other.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols FRP and FRP.BC. Learn more at www.fairpoint.com.

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