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Chicago Educator Calvin Pearce Named One of Nation's Most Innovative Education Leaders

Time Dollar Tutoring Director Receives 2005 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award

**Media Note: Awardees are in Washington, DC through May 18
To arrange interviews or receive digital photographs, call contact**

Washington, DC – For finding a way to involve students in tutoring their younger peers, engage parents in their children's education, raise math and reading achievement, and address the Digital Divide – all while helping the environment – Calvin Pearce is being honored nationally for his substantial contributions to learning in Chicago.

Comcast – Greater Chicago Region and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced today that Pearce is a winner of the new *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award*, which recognizes the most inventive classroom educators, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers who are transforming education from Kindergarten through high school (K-12).

"To be selected as *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award* winners, these awardees demonstrated dedication to improving learning for all children," said Helen Soulé, Ph.D., executive director of Cable in the Classroom. "They did this by reaching beyond the familiar to support and encourage young people to achieve their best. Armed with a high quality education, young people will be prepared to meet the world that awaits them – and to improve and transform it for their own children."

Pearce is being recognized in the General Excellence award category for creating Time Dollar Tutoring, which teaches older students how to tutor their younger peers, earning "time dollars" toward an Internet-ready computer. Time Dollar Tutoring targets high poverty schools (90 percent free lunch program). In its eight-year existence, it has placed 5,075 computers in disadvantaged homes and helped students average a year's growth in math and reading scores. In addition, 450 tons of computer waste has been redirected out of landfills by recycling and upgrading hardware for the program. Pearce's program has shipped computers to Trinidad and Ghana, set up computer reading labs in several schools, and run computer-training labs that help teenagers enter the job market.

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“Among the benefits of students participating in peer tutoring are that students develop a love for learning, gain a greater sense of self-esteem, improve attendance, aspire to become teachers, and much more,” said Pearce.

Pearce and the other *Leaders in Learning Award* winners are in Washington, D.C. this week to attend a gala awards ceremony, to meet with Members of Congress and education leaders, and to participate in a series of professional development events. Awardees receive a cash prize from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to the trip to Washington.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Bill Kurtis, host of A&E’s *American Justice* and producer of *Investigative Reports* and *Cold Case Files*, will take place on May 17 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will interview award-winners during the awards presentations. Marc Summers, host of *Unwrapped* on the Food Network, John Anderson, an ESPN *Sportscenter* anchor, and Jeff Johnson, host of the BET documentary series *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, will present the awards. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert will receive a tribute from the cable industry. Rising stand-up comedian Ted Alexandro will be performing a ten-minute routine.

“We hope that these awards, and the exceptional work on behalf of learning they honor, will move others to strive for similar excellence and stretch the boundaries of the kind of excellence that is possible in education,” said Soulé. “We at Cable in the Classroom will always have that – and these awardees – close to the heart of our mission.”

The awards fall into four categories:

- **General Excellence** – Awards given for general excellence in education.
- **Pushing the Envelope** – Awards given to those redefining the education frontier by using cable content or cable technology.
- **Policymaker** – Awards given to federal, state, or local policymakers who have contributed to the improvement of K-12 education in the broadest sense;
- **Media literacy** – An award given in partnership with the National PTA to recognize excellence in advancing media literacy skills.

For more information about *Cable’s Leaders in Learning Awards*, please visit www.ciconline.org or www.leadersinlearningawards.org.