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**Media Contact:**

Brent Eastwood  
beastwood@dwtturner.com  
(505) 338-8930; (505) 363-0890 cell

## ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL NAMED 2009 GLOBAL CLASSROOM AWARD WINNER

*Creative international exchange efforts of students and staff bring national prize to local school*

**December 22, 2008, Seattle, WA.** -- The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) honored Roosevelt High School this month by naming it a Global Classroom Award winner. The Global Classroom Award recognizes schools that incorporate international issues and global awareness into the school and larger community.

The cultural and student exchange programs at Roosevelt High School were top-rated over 50 schools nominated from around the country. The faculty and students of Roosevelt High School demonstrate a dedication to raising global consciousness and an enthusiasm for welcoming foreign exchange students into their student body.

“Over the years we have made global studies and international understanding a priority at our school. The exchange experience is imprinted indelibly in young minds when they are fully aware of and fully appreciate our differences.” said Principal Brian Vance.

The public school uses social justice issues as a tool to engage its student body in cultural exchange. Its Student Equity Council Club strives to educate students about race, class, privilege, age, ability, ethnicity and religion and how these impact lives. Roosevelt High School teachers created the on-going *Hands for a Bridge* program, linking youth in Cape Town, South Africa, Northern Ireland, and Seattle through exchanges and the arts. This program builds on understanding diversity as it applies at the global and local level with support from the RHS community. Students within and outside of the World Languages program experience exchanges to Europe and Asia to bridge differences and build global understanding. Roosevelt families and classrooms host international visitors to enhance the global curriculum.

As a Global Classroom Award winner, Roosevelt High School will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for its students to study abroad, or equivalent funds to put towards global awareness projects in the school community. In addition, a representative from the school has been invited to Hartford, Connecticut and will receive complimentary registration, accommodation and airfare to take part in the 2009 National School Conference on International Youth where he/she will accept the award. Other winners this year include Westford Academy in Massachusetts and Milwaukee School of Languages in Wisconsin.

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“CSIET is pleased to bestow Roosevelt High School with the 2009 Global Classroom Award,” said John Hishmeh, executive director of CSIET. “International understanding has always been a tenet of teaching at this special school.”

**About the Council on Standards for International Educations Travel**

CSIET is a private not-for-profit organization whose mission is to identify reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities so that youth are provided with meaningful and safe international exchange experiences, and to promote the importance and educational value of international youth exchange. CSIET has been promoting international youth exchanges since 1984. For more information, visit [www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org).

**2009 National School Conference on International Youth Exchange**

This conference – February 27-28, 2009 in Hartford, CT – will provide a unique opportunity for school leaders, educators and administrators to meet and network with school colleagues and leaders of various youth exchange programs. CSIET is very pleased to announce that the **Connecticut State Department of Education** and the **Capitol Region Education Council** in Hartford are joining CSIET as co-sponsors of the conference.

**About Roosevelt High School**

For information, visit [www.rhsseattle.org](http://www.rhsseattle.org)

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