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MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES NAMED 2009 GLOBAL CLASSROOM AWARD WINNER

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

December 26, 2008, Milwaukee, Wis. -- The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) honored Milwaukee School of Languages 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 Milwaukee School of Languages were top-rated over 50 schools nominated from around the country. The faculty and students of Milwaukee School of Languages demonstrate a dedication to raising global consciousness and an enthusiasm for welcoming foreign exchange students into their student body.

“Our students and staff are diverse not only in their ethnic backgrounds, but they are also pursuing foreign languages as a matter of curriculum, and more importantly, to gain an international perspective,” said Principal Dr. Grace Thomsen. “Milwaukee School of Languages is thrilled to be recognized for such achievements.”

Milwaukee School of Languages uses special events to celebrate the diverse cultures of its school and city. Students participate in the city’s Holiday Folk Fair and organize their own Festival of Nations each spring. Also, the sister-school relationships with institutions in such faraway places as Spain, Peru, Japan and Germany are some of the strongest CSIET discovered. Milwaukee School of Languages exchange programs with foreign schools promote internationalism and understanding to dozens of visiting and traveling students and faculty every year.

As a Global Classroom Award winner, Milwaukee School of Languages will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for its students to study abroad, or equivalent funds to put toward 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 Exchange.

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Other winners this year include Roosevelt High School in Seattle and Westford Academy in Westford, Massachusetts.

“CSIET is pleased to bestow Milwaukee School of Languages with the 2009 Global Classroom Award,” said John Hishmeh, executive director of CSIET. “Hosting international exchange students is clearly a long-term, school-wide commitment 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.

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 Milwaukee School of Languages

For information, visit <http://www2.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>.

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