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Hosford Middle School Language Lab Fully Operational

(Portland, OR) - Hosford Middle School, a Portland Public middle school located in inner Southeast Portland, has converted a classroom into a dedicated language lab, which became fully operational for student instruction in October, 2010. The language lab was made possible by a \$123,000 grant from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission through funds provided by Comcast Corporation.

Besides its thriving foreign language and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, Hosford is the only public middle school in the entire Pacific Northwest that currently houses two language immersion programs. The lab, dedicated for use by the school's Spanish and Chinese immersion and elective programs, as well by the English Language Learner (ELL) students, houses 32 iMac computers equipped with headsets and a SMARTBOARD. It is the only computer lab dedicated to language study in Portland Public Schools.

According to ELL teacher Zsuzsa Nemeth, "We pursued this grant due to the fact that there was no available technology to support foreign and second language study at Hosford." The grant, co-written by Nemeth and parent volunteer Sue Shattuc, in collaboration with the school's technology committee, also provides the school with two, 20 laptop mobile carts, document cameras and projectors, still cameras, flip cameras and audio recorders with the goal of improving writing achievement and increase students' proficiency in digital literacy and multimedia skills.

Because of the lab, language students are now using the award-winning Rosetta Stone online language program in Chinese, Spanish and English, and the immersion students are documenting their learning via Linguafolio, an online portfolio assessment instrument designed to support students in setting and achieving their goals for learning languages. In addition, Chinese 8th grade immersion students are doing research in preparation for their China residency trip as well as for their Capstone projects. Hosford contributed close to \$150,000 in matching funds to the Language Lab project, including Foundation and Auction proceeds, some equipment, and staff members' commitment to participate in extensive technology training over three years.