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## NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER LYNDA LOVEJOY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *New fiber optic network levels the playing field for Gallup-McKinley students and faculty*

**SANTA FE, NM** – New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy today announced the next generation of broadband internet service is now available to Gallup-McKinley School District students, faculty, and staff, improving access to high-performance data networking and telecommunications.

Sacred Wind Communications has installed a dedicated fiber optic network exclusive to Gallup-McKinley schools, which will advance one-to-one computing, allowing every student to use an electronic device to access the Internet, digital course materials, and digital textbooks; boost Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP); and improve data sharing and security by way of cloud applications.

“Increasing broadband availability in my district is one of my highest priorities and we are leveling the playing field for all residents and businesses in Northwest New Mexico,” said Commissioner Lovejoy. “Sacred Wind has done an admirable job in building telecommunications infrastructure in remote tribal and rural areas and now has helped us live up to our commitment to our constituents: to provide equality of opportunity for all, especially our children.”

The 12,000-strong school district is moving to 100 percent fiber based solutions, which will revolutionize students’ ability to access, transport, and deliver information. By having the ability to increase bandwidth up to 10 Gigabits per second (Gbps), up from less than one Gbps, the district will have rapid access to resources close to home and globally.

Furthermore, in addition to fiber being the most dependable method of delivery, the network is designed to be “future-proof,” meaning as demand for higher bandwidth increases over the years, the electronic equipment connecting the fiber can be upgraded to allow for bandwidth increases up to 10 Gbps, 100 Gbps, or perhaps even more.

“Technology is a powerful learning tool,” said Commissioner Lovejoy. “The installation of a Gigabit broadband will give children a more empowering role in their own education and have a profound effect on their communities.”

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*The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The NMPRC promotes public safety through the offices of State Fire Marshal, the Firefighter Training Academy, Pipeline Safety Bureau, and Transportation Division.*