

**For Immediate Release**

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**As spring break ends an army of free tutors await eastern Oregon students**

**51 communities across eastern Oregon – March 30, 2009** - As the school year's end approaches many students across eastern Oregon are having the same thought: "How am I going to pass my toughest courses?" The answer: Free Live Homework Help.

The Chalkboard Project provided a grant to the Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) for a free online tutoring service available from any location. Administered by Tutor.com, Live Homework Help connects students to expert tutors in math, science, social studies, and English. Since launching the service in September the feedback has been loud and clear:

"This is a great service!!! Keep it running!!" said one 8<sup>th</sup> grader from the Harney County Library.

To bolster the success of the free tutor service, LEO and Tutor.com are co-sponsoring a contest in April, May and June for public libraries in the 15 counties served by LEO. The contest includes \$100 to be awarded to the library that has the highest usage of Live Homework help by community residents during those three months, \$75 to the library with the most creative marketing effort for the program, and \$25 to the library where patrons have used the tutoring service for the widest range of subjects. Awards will be made during the first week of July.

Students from Kindergarten to 12th grade, those in introductory-level college courses, and adult learners can simply visit 51 local eastern Oregon libraries, a library's Web site, or LEO's Web site ([www.librariesofeasternoregon.org](http://www.librariesofeasternoregon.org)) to get on-demand, free help from qualified tutors. All that's needed is a library card. The service is available seven days a week from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"The bilingual Live Homework Help is free, easy to use, and widely accessible," said Marie Baldo, director of the Hermiston Public Library. "It significantly increases the library's ability to serve learners from all ages and walks of life; strengthening the library's presence and responsibility in our rural community."

Students and tutors can review specific homework questions, as well as subject-specific concepts using features such as controlled chat, an interactive white board and shared Web browsing in the Online Classroom. All tutors are certified teachers, college professors, professional tutors, graduate, or undergraduate school students from across the country. Tutor.com has more than 1,800 tutors available to work with kids when they need help most. Every tutor is certified by Tutor.com and has completed a third party background check.

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#### About Libraries of Eastern Oregon

A nonprofit organization since 2000, LEO offers services to 51 public libraries across Eastern Oregon — an area larger than several New England states combined. LEO is funded through direct contributions and grants. Board members and supporters believe the public library remains a cornerstone of democracy and the heart of the rural community in the 21st century. To access Live Homework Help or learn more about LEO, visit [www.librariesofeasternoregon.org](http://www.librariesofeasternoregon.org).

#### About Chalkboard Project

Launched in early 2004, Chalkboard Project exists to inspire Oregonians to do what it takes to make the state's K-12 public schools among the nation's best, while strengthening our school system's financial accountability to taxpayers. Chalkboard aims to help create a more informed and engaged public that understands and addresses the tough choices and trade-offs required to build strong schools, and to enable statewide programs that can be applied at the local level to improve school quality, accountability, and funding. For more information about Chalkboard and to learn how to get involved, call (877) YOUR-K12 or visit [www.chalkboardproject.org](http://www.chalkboardproject.org).

#### About Tutor.com

Tutor.com creates innovative, on demand homework help and tutoring services that connect students to a professional tutor online the moment they need help in math, science, social studies or English. The network of over 1,800 professional tutors has delivered over 2.5 million one-to-one tutoring sessions. Tutor.com services include Live Homework Help, an after-school program offered at over 1,600 public libraries and Tutor.com Direct, an on demand tutoring service for families. Tutor.com also powers two statewide, governor-supported initiatives, HomeworkKansas and HomeworkAlabama. Tutor.com was named to Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 Program for the New York Region in 2006 and honored as one of the 25 Best Small Companies for Women 2007 by Working Mother. For more information about Tutor.com's library programs please go to [www.tutor.com/libraries](http://www.tutor.com/libraries).