News Release

CourseNetworking launches social network for classrooms and lifelong learners: theCN.com

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INDIANAPOLIS - On March 19, 2012, Course Networking (theCN.com) launched a new learning environment that is free to users and provides a social network that enables global interaction of formal and informal learners.

theCN will fill a different niche from conventional course or learning management systems. *the*CN is free to users and is based on principles of social networking designed to help students and faculty connect globally with other learners interested in the same course subject or topic--both in the credit and noncredit arenas. Because it is free (no license necessary) and easy to use, it is an effective complement to course management systems like Blackboard, Sakai, Epsilen, D2L, or Moodle. Anyone, anywhere in the world, can start using *the*CN immediately - without having to go through a school or college, a course administrator, or a user group to connect instantly with people around the world with shared interests.

"One of the biggest advantages of this new model for learning is it transforms the regular classroom into a global classroom," Ali Jafari, the conceptual architect, founder, and CEO, said. "No longer is it just you, your classmates, and your teacher. Now it's you, your classmates, your teacher and your virtual classmates and teachers from all over the world. *the*CN introduces an intercultural learning experience that offers more opportunity for dialogue and educational collaboration with international students and instructors. In this way, *the*CN will introduce a totally new framework for online learning that prepares students all over the world to understand how to engage and thrive in a broadening, global economy."

Owned in part by Indiana University Research and Technology Corporation (IURTC) and other educational institutions, *the*CN is

headquartered in Indianapolis. Virginia Tech joined Indiana University as the first institutional funder of *the*CN, a group that will consist of 40 domestic and international institutions. "We look to theCN as a transformative innovation for hybrid and fully online learning, and are pleased to be directly involved in its ongoing development," said Dr. Gardner Campbell, Director of Professional Development and Innovative Initiatives in the Division of Learning Technologies at Virginia Tech. The institutional owners and members will provide the intellectual capital that will enhance *the*CN. "We think this is a great platform, and will really help teachers and students better connect as they work together through their courses," said Tony Armstrong, President & CEO of IURTC. By remaining in the control of leading global universities, *the*CN will ensure that its first priority is meeting the needs of learners worldwide, innovating as necessary to keep pace with the ways the world learns. *the*CN will offer its platform to all users free of charge, and it will generate revenue through targeted advertising that is relevant and of benefit to the system's users, through CN Apps, and through customized tools and services.

To join:

1. Visit www.theCN.com and enter your name and email address.
2. Create or join a course or a Conexus (a discussion group).
3. Invite your classmates and colleagues to join your Courses and Conexus.

For more information, please contact Sarah Zike, Director of Business Development for CourseNetworking, at sarah@coursenetworking.com or 317-550-2020.