

News Release

For Immediate Release

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***Califone*[®] and Recorded Books Announce 2006 Stone Audio-Enhanced Classroom Grants**

Three educators will be awarded \$5,000 worth of audio technology, audiobooks

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (Jan. 31, 2006) – *Califone* International, Inc., the premier manufacturer of quality audio technology for the education market, and Recorded Books, LLC, the world's premier publisher of unabridged audiobooks, jointly announce today the 2006 Stone Audio-Enhanced Classroom Grants.

The Audio-Enhanced Classroom Grant is one of the first collaborative initiatives resulting from the partnership between *Califone* and Recorded Books. Teachers and administrators have the opportunity to apply for a fully equipped audio-enhanced classroom to support literacy development through the use of unabridged audiobooks and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. The companies are co-sponsoring the grant to promote best practices in the use of audio to improve academic achievement among struggling students. Three educators will be awarded an Audio-Enhanced Classroom Kit Grant worth \$5,000 of *Califone* multimedia technology and audiobooks from Recorded Books.

The Audio-Enhanced Classroom Kit contains everything an educator needs to incorporate audio-supported reading instruction into a classroom at the appropriate reading and interest levels:

- A Recorded Books Grade Level Collection featuring 20 novels on CD with matching print versions
- A Recorded Books Intervention Library featuring 10 high-interest novels two or more grade-levels below grade on CD with matching print versions
- A *Califone* Performer Plus CD/Cassette/Radio with remote control for whole-class novel study
- Two *Califone* CD Learning Centers with four stereo headphones and miniature stereo jackbox with individual volume controls for use in two literature circles
- A *Califone* Personal CD Player with stereo headphones for individual listen-and-read practice for each student in the class, up to 30 players
- A Recorded Books Drawstring Book Pack to hold students' CD, print book, and CD player and to enable them to carry the items to and from school for study at home, one for each student in the class, up to 30 book packs
- Three Audio/Print Storage Crates

MORE

New research indicates that students using Recorded Books materials to support their reading text improved their Lexile scores by 34 percent, increased their reading fluency by 65 percent, and they read 77 percent more pages than students using print only. Critical to the success of audio-supported reading programs is high-quality audio technology. Poor sound audibility derived from multimedia equipment can impair students' ability to identify words and construct meaning, regardless of age or reading level. *Califone* equipment delivers superior sound quality and rugged durability, specifically designed to meet the needs of schools and libraries.

To apply for the grant, teachers and administrators must submit a brief project proposal describing how the Audio-Enhanced Classroom Kit will be used to improve reading comprehension, fluency, and other reading skills as well as to foster a love of reading and motivate students to read. Grant proposals should also include the methodology that will be used to measure success in these areas.

Entry deadline is April 30, 2006. Winners will be announced in June 2006, so educators can begin using their kits in the 2006-2007 school year. For a complete grant application, go to www.califone.com or www.recordedbooks.com.

About *Califone*

Califone was founded in 1946 and continues to be a leader in the design, development and manufacturing of audiovisual and supplemental curriculum products for use in education, presentation and professional markets. The company offers a complete line of audio solutions, wireless systems and multimedia products for small, medium and large presentation needs. *Califone* serves millions of educators and children in the PreK through higher education school environments and has expanded to serve business and industry, houses of worship, parks and recreation and other presentation markets as well. For more information, visit www.califone.com or phone (800) 722-0500.

About Recorded Books

Recorded Books, a Hights Cross Communications Company, was founded in 1979 and is the world's largest independent publisher of unabridged audiobooks. Recorded Books provides unabridged audiobooks on cassette and CD for consumer markets, libraries, and schools. For more information, visit www.recordedbooks.com.

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