

## **QWEST DONATES \$7,500 TO DENISE LOUIE EDUCATION CENTER Funds Will Create Qwest Lending Libraries for Parents and Children**

**Seattle, WA, Sep. 12, 2007** – The Qwest Foundation is proud to announce a \$7,500 Grant to the Denise Louie Education Center (DLEC) for the creation of Parent/Child Lending Libraries at its three Head Start locations in Seattle. The Qwest Lending Libraries will provide books, literacy journals and supplies for the classrooms that will strengthen the English language of children and empower parents to become more involved in their child's education.

The DLEC serves 181 children and families enrolled in Head Start, a federal program designed to prepare children from low-income families for a lifetime of learning. The DLEC children come from more than 15 countries in Asia, Latin and South America and East Africa. More than 80% of the children entering the program have limited or no English skills. The low incomes make it difficult for the parents to buy books. The low English skills make the parents ill-equipped to know which books in English will inspire early learning.

"One of our main goals with children is to help them learn basic English", said Janice Deguchi, DLEC Executive Director. "Qwest's investment is a great way to encourage more parent-child interaction around literacy in English and their native language at home. With multi-lingual books scarce and in high demand at public libraries, our libraries are a great way to guarantee access for our families to these important tools."

Resources from the Qwest Lending Libraries will accelerate the learning process and bridge the gap between classroom learning and home learning. They will also be tailored to specific language groups enrolled at each site. For instance, if a classroom contains a large number of Mandarin Chinese speakers, so will the contents of their library. The DLEC says thanks to the Qwest Foundation Grant, they are now able to address this important need, as current resources often fall short.

"The Denise Louie Education Center has been helping families in the Seattle community for many decades and Qwest is honored to contribute funds that further help their mission," said Kirk Nelson, Qwest president for Washington. "The Qwest Lending Libraries will offer a unique service to parents and children and we are proud to be among the first to offer it."

The DLEC hopes to establish the Qwest Lending Libraries and create the literacy journals by October, 2008.

### **About Qwest**

Qwest offers a unique and powerful combination of voice and data solutions for businesses, government agencies and consumers – locally and throughout the country. Customers coast to coast are turning to Qwest's industry-leading national fiber optic network and its Spirit of Service for quality products and superior customer experience. For more information on Qwest, and its various operating subsidiaries, please go to [www.qwest.com](http://www.qwest.com).

### **About the Qwest Foundation**

The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in education provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on pre-K through 12 education.