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**TOP UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR TO SERVE AS STATEWIDE
CHAIRMAN OF THE *TENNESSEE CABLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION***

Nashville, TN --- Dr. Carl W. Owens, Ed.D., Professor and Director of Technology for the College of Education at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, will serve as chairman of the statewide *Tennessee Cable Education Foundation* (TCEF). TCEF is a not-for-profit subsidiary of the TCTA, that provides resources from the cable industry for education in communities across Tennessee.

Dr. Owens, who was a founding Board member of TCEF, which is now in its second year of existence, joins another educator, Peggy Guy, incoming TCEF Board member and technology coordinator for the Metro Nashville School System, on the TCEF Board. Other members of the TCEF Board include a diverse group of representatives of the cable telecommunications industry.

Dr. Owens holds a Doctorate of Education degree in Educational Administration from Tennessee State University, the Education Specialist degree from the University of Memphis, and Bachelors and Masters degrees from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. He is completing the third year of a federal grant as project co-director of an initiative to bring technology to rural teachers. Owens, an Apple Distinguished Educator since 1998, has been heavily involved with *Cable in the Classroom*, another cable industry educational initiative.

As chairman of TCEF, Dr. Owens will help direct the cable industry's efforts to identify educational resource needs and then help the industry effectively to address those needs. Last year funds and in-kind donations were raised and dispersed to support more than half-a-dozen education initiatives totaling \$80,000.

“TCEF will continue to expand its reach into communities across our state, working in conjunction with educators and civic and community leaders, to identify specific needs at the local level, and to then to partner with others in the cable industry to address those needs in a timely manner,” said Dr. Owens. “TCEF has the potential to set a new standard for how the private sector can work hand in hand with those in the public sector to support education in our state.”

The TCTA formed TCEF, a (501)(c)(3), in 2000. TCEF partners cable operators with programmers and vendors to raise funds and provide resources to respond to local education needs.

“While our state's cable operators, programmers and vendors already do a great deal of community service year round, TCEF offers an additional opportunity for the industry to increase its ability to make a positive difference in education, said Stacey Briggs, TCEF and TCTA Executive Director. “Our industry is wholeheartedly committed to seeing TCEF's reach grow into every county and community across Tennessee, The active leadership and involvement of TCTA members, and educators like Dr. Owens and Ms. Guy only serve to enhance TCEF's effectiveness.”

Other officers and members of the 2002-2003 TCEF Board include Vice Chairman Christy Batts of Charter Communications, a 12-year veteran of the cable industry who serves on numerous community, charitable and business boards throughout the region; Secretary / Treasurer Lillian Graham of Comcast, who as director of marketing has over 8 years of experience in the cable industry; Russell Byrd of Comcast; Vince King of Small Town Cable; Cory Mizga of ESPN; Paul Maynard of Charter Communications and Tom Morris of Time Warner Cable.

The cable industry in Tennessee continues to make other forms of investment in education, such as providing free cable and Internet service to more than 1400 schools and 250 libraries in 138 school districts across the state. The cable industry also supports *Cable In the Classroom*, which illustrates successful industry collaborative efforts by having cable operators provide cable connections and cable programmers offer educational programming to more than 78,000 schools and 41 million students nationwide. *Cable In the Classroom* also offers free professional development resources to educators.

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