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(Washington, DC) – The Council for Higher Education Accreditation has announced the winners of the 2010 CHEA Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes:

Four Colleges and Universities to Receive 2010 CHEA Award

(Washington, DC) – The Council for Higher Education Accreditation has announced the winners of the 2010 *CHEA Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes*: Capella University (MN), Portland State University (OR), St. Olaf College (MN) and the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (AR).

Capella University is an online university offering undergraduate and graduate education to more than 30,000 working adults. **Portland State University**, a public state university located in Oregon, has an overall enrollment of more than 28,000, including undergraduate and graduate students. St. Olaf College is an academically rigorous, nationally ranked liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota, with an enrollment of approximately 3,000. The **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**, one of the 11 campuses that make up the University of Arkansas System, is a public, four-year university with an enrollment of approximately 6,500.

The *CHEA Award* was established in 2005 to recognize institutions that have been exceptional in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes to improve higher education quality and accountability. A committee selected from higher education institutions, accrediting organizations and the public judged the winners on the basis of four award criteria: 1) articulation and evidence of outcomes; 2) success with regard to outcomes; 3) information to the public about outcomes and 4) use of outcomes for educational improvement.

“CHEA is pleased to acknowledge the work of these four colleges and universities in providing examples of institutional progress and effective approaches to the use of student learning outcomes,” said CHEA President Judith Eaton.

Representatives from each school will receive the award at the 2010 CHEA Annual Conference, to be held January 25-28 at the Marriott Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C.