PRESS RELEASE

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CONNECTINGSTANISLAUS.COM: COMMUNITY PORTAL UPGRADE TO LAUNCH IN WEB 2.0 ON JANUARY ONE

Information (learning and sharing) = Empowerment = building a community's competitive technology edge.

The Connecting Stanislaus community web portal initiative is based upon a "community development philosophy that focuses on moving our community to a competitive edge - sector by sector "states Stanislaus County Deputy Executive Officer of Economic Development, Keith Boggs. The completely volunteer content provider model allows people to become involved and to become active in the process of spreading and sharing information.

The connectingstanislaus.com community web portal initially launched in the spring of 2003 as one of six community technology outreach initiatives. The upgraded site will launch on New Years Day, January 1st, 2009 at midnight bringing in the New Year with a new era of community based technology and information sharing.

The site will feature a new, user-friendly interface, and will include additional features not available on the original site.

Various formats, such as audio and video files will now be supported. "The site will be far more interactive offering visitors the ability to comment on blogs, forums, video and audio files" states site administrator and County Staff Services Analyst, Stephanie Almen.

The web portal expands the community dialogue and enlarges the idea bank making it possible to tap into our diverse cultures. Collaboratively edited web pages allow user champions to edit or add content and tell their stories. The community web portal is best practice example of mass collaboration.

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