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**COLEMAN ANNOUNCES TWO \$376,650 GRANTS TO
IMPROVE MULTIMEDIA LEARNING FOR BLIND, DEAF
STUDENTS**

*U.S. Department of Education grants to Minneapolis-based CaptionMax
will benefit K-12 students with disabilities*

St. Paul, MN – Senator Norm Coleman today announced that CaptionMax, a multimedia business based in Minneapolis, has received two separate \$376,650 grants from the United States Department of Education under the Television Access Program, a project designed to increase multimedia classroom opportunities for individuals with disabilities. CaptionMax will use these grants to provide multimedia educational programs for K-12 students with disabilities, using technologies such as captioning and video descriptions in educational videos used across the country.

“It’s important that every kid is given equal access to the best resources to help them reach their full potential,” said Coleman. “By using the latest technology to help kids with disabilities in the classroom, CaptionMax is directly addressing their unique needs, and I applaud them for the work they will do with the help of this grant.”

Specifically, the program will provide captioning, subtitling, audio description and other technical services for deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and low vision students. For example, one of the new technologies being developed will allow blind students to freeze frame educational videos and hear a narrator’s description.

"We are very excited about winning these two grants," said CaptionMax President Max Duckler. "These grants focus on making non-broadcast educational media - such as DVDs and Internet video - accessible for the classroom. Not only that, but the goal of the grants is to go beyond simple captioning and description to explore ways to make media truly useful and accessible, such as captions for different reading speeds, expanded descriptions to provide more information to blind students, and even new approaches to improving menu navigation."

The two U.S. Department of Education grants of \$376,650 will each be administered beginning October 1st, 2006 and are expected to be renewed annually for a period of five years. One grant is expected to focus on the learning areas of history, social studies and civics, with the other focusing on science curriculum.

CaptionMax was started in 1993 by President Max Duckler and is based in Minneapolis, with additional offices in Los Angeles and New York. The company works nationwide with publishers of educational material as well as television networks and web portals to make electronic media accessible to all people.

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