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JOINT NEWS RELEASE – November 17, 2014

## **Spirit Communications and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative Bring Super-High-Speed Internet Access to Rural Schools in Charleston, South Carolina**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (November 17, 2014)** – Spirit Communications and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC) are pleased to announce the availability of super-high-speed Internet access to six schools in the most rural areas of Charleston's School District (Hollywood, McClellanville, and Ravenel, SC).

This highly complex project entailed 34 miles of advanced fiber construction and intricate drilling under the Edisto River and three different CSX railroad crossings. "I'm still amazed at what this task force accomplished for these students," said Bob Keane, President and CEO of Spirit Communications. "None of this would have been possible without the close collaboration of Spirit, PRTC, the Charleston School District, and the State eRate Coordinator in conjunction with K12 School Technology Initiative Committee."

Having high-speed access via advanced fiber optics technology is a significant investment in the students' education and places them on par with other schools in the State. The expansion in bandwidth will enable the schools to take their curriculums to new levels by incorporating high-definition video, eLearning applications, and other virtual education programs only available via the Internet.

"Not only will the fiber build benefit the students, faculty and staff -- it will have a tremendous impact on our community," said Jason Dandridge, CEO of PRTC. "In addition to supporting new growth it will also enable faster and higher quality communications in our fire and rescue facilities, medical buildings, local libraries and other prominent locations."

ETV's Palmetto Scene, which aired November 13<sup>th</sup>, captured the essence of this project through personal interviews with the students and faculty at Baptist Hill High School. Additionally, John McCarron, Executive Director of IT for Charleston County School District, discussed how the new Internet service is making an impact at the district level while Seth Krisnow, Technical Consultant at Spirit Communications, and Tony Stout, CTO, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, shared details on the technical aspects of the fiber dig. A replay of the segment is available online at <http://palmettoscene.org/category/education>.

### **About Spirit Communications**

Headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, Spirit Communications provides voice, data, Internet and fiber optic solutions, along with a full suite of Cloud services to commercial businesses and government agencies across the Southeast. The company's mission is to enable customers to transform their operations through fast, stable and secure offerings that flex with business demand. Ranked among the top 25 privately held firms in South Carolina, Spirit serves thousands of customers in over 150 service locations throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

### **About Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative**

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative providing a complete telecommunications solution (Voice, Internet, Digital TV and Wireless phone) to the homes and businesses of Colleton County, South Carolina. For more information, visit [www.prtc.coop](http://www.prtc.coop)