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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ashwaubenon School District Celebrates Saving Energy Dollars, Environment

Ashwaubenon, WI – October 8, 2013 – As the nation celebrates Energy Awareness Month in October, Ashwaubenon administrators are having a celebration of their own — announcing more than \$328,000 savings achieved through an innovative energy conservation program.

The \$328,000 savings is equal to 16.3% of the expected energy costs without the program. In environmental terms, the energy saved equates to 1727 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, or 360 autos off the highway annually or over 44,293 tree seedlings planted and grown in ten years.

“It is particularly appropriate to celebrate our savings this month,” said Dr. Brian Hanes. Energy Awareness Month is all about teaching people to make good decisions about the energy they use, and that’s what our program does: today, every person on our staff uses energy as needed. By implementing best practices for energy use throughout our system, we create savings, enhance the learning environment and retain dollars for education — it’s the right thing to do.”

The successful cost-saving program is implemented through a partnership with Cenergistic, the nation’s leading organizational behavior-based conservation company whose energy management program has saved more than \$3.2 billion for educational and complex organizations.

Using Cenergistic’s process, Ashwaubenon School District has built a customized and sustainable energy conservation program that reduces consumption of electricity, natural gas, and water through changes in organizational and human behavior. To date all school buildings in the district are Energy Star certified.

Hank Schmitt serves as Energy Specialist for Ashwaubenon. He receives training from Cenergistic energy consultants to determine and implement energy-saving techniques throughout the system. He conducts energy audits to ensure that students, staff and faculty are comfortable during class time and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. Cenergistic’s conservation experts work closely with Hank to audit buildings and train personnel to control energy use wherever possible. Every energy-using item in the system — including all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, food service facilities, athletic facilities, offices and classrooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, information technology, and computer labs — receives ongoing evaluation for the best, most efficient use of energy while ensuring that the learning environment is at its best.

To verify the program's effectiveness, identify further saving opportunities and measure success, Hank tracks energy consumption — including electricity, water, sewer, and natural gas— using third-party energy-accounting software from EnergyCAP, Inc. The software compares current energy use to a baseline period and calculates the amount of energy that would have been used if conservation and management practices had not been implemented. It adjusts for weather, equipment additions or deletions, and changes in building use. By tracking consumption and analyzing energy use, EnergyCAP® helps the district and Cenergistic quickly identify and correct any wasteful energy use that needs to be addressed.

All costs of the Cenergistic program come from the existing utility budget, with savings guaranteed to more than pay for the program. Additional savings can be reserved for other parts of the budget. Many organizations have credited this program with helping save jobs and programs that otherwise would have fallen victim to budget cuts. In addition, the conservation program is sustainable for years.

Cenergistic is a technology-powered, data-driven energy conservation company. Cenergistic helps organizations reduce consumption of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and water. Its proven approach is built on a proprietary methodology, which optimizes clients' infrastructure, improves internal processes and changes behavior to ensure that savings endure. This approach empowers the average client to save 20 – 30% off expected utility bills. For the past five years, Cenergistic has earned national recognition from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, including the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence Award in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

For more information, please contact Hank Schmitt, Energy Specialist, at hschmitt@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us or 920-492-2905 extension 1012.

SIDEBAR:

Now community members can participate in tracking their own energy use and savings. Free online software — called GreenQuest — is available to the community served by Ashwaubenon Schools. To use GreenQuest, go to the school district's homepage at www.ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us and click the GreenQuest logo. User-friendly GreenQuest is free for individual households and small businesses. GreenQuest's informative features help users analyze data for up to three meters (electric, water and fuel) by entering monthly utility bills.

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