

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE HELPS LAND \$1 MILLION TO FINANCE
STATEWIDE EDUCATION SATELLITE PROGRAM;
KU AND KSU TO HOUSE PROGRAMS

Washington, D.C. -- Kansas Senators Robert Dole and Nancy Kassebaum announced today that Kansas students in rural school districts will have access to some of the best instruction available thanks to a new high-tech satellite project called "Star Schools."

The innovative education program - the Midlands Consortium Star Schools Project - got the boost it needed with a \$1 million grant that the Kansas Senators helped bring the state's way. Kansas State University, will receive \$700,000 as a communications center. Kansas University will receive \$450,000 and will house the Midlands Consortium Research and Evaluation Center, focusing on project evaluation.

"For too long, rural America has been shortchanged when it comes to the latest advances on the education front - but that's changing. This 'Star Schools' program will reach children in rural areas and provide teachers and students with up-to-date training skills in coursework and instruction," said Dole.

The Midlands Consortium Star Schools Project will have foreign languages and science courses available via satellite across the state of Kansas. Consortium members will cooperate on identification of needs in their states, sharing responsibility for developing programs which meet those needs. Besides KU and K-State, the consortium also includes universities in Oklahoma, Missouri, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Geared toward predominantly rural states, this project will link elementary and secondary schools, state departments of education, state school board associations and state universities.