NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel to Participate in Analyst Conference

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--March 17, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) announces that it is scheduled to participate in the following analyst conference:

Banc of America Securities Media, Telecommunications and Entertainment Conference	Tuesday March 29

The conference host will be providing webcast availability. For information regarding the specific presentation time and webcast, please visit CenturyTel's Web site at **www.centurytel.com**, Investor Relations, Calendar of Events. Participation in this conference is subject to change due to unforeseen events. Therefore, please check the company's Investor Relations Calendar of Events prior to the conference.

CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) provides a full range of local, long distance, Internet and broadband services to consumers in 22 states. Included in the S&P 500 Index, CenturyTel is a leading provider of integrated communications services to rural areas and small to mid-size cities in the United States. Visit CenturyTel at **www.centurytel.com**.

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SOURCE: CenturyTel, Inc.