Dist Learning 2008-09 Initiative: Joint Effort To Increase Student Access to Lane Distance Learning Resources: Perkins and Tech fee request

Summary:

This application is to Perkins and the Student Tech fee to purchase additional bandwidth.

Description:

- Scenario: After several weeks of portfolio development, formative assessments, and in-class activities, an instructor wishes to conduct a summative assessment that evaluates student mastery of the subject. She creates a timed exam in Moodle that requires completion within one hour. Based on prior experience with similar paper and pencil exams in the classroom, the instructor expects all students to be able to complete the exam. Unfortunately, most students find that each new question and page in the exam loads at a glacial pace. Ultimately, even her best students are not able to complete the exam before being timed out.
- Student and instructor use of the Internet for providing and accessing content for Distance Learning courses and traditional bricks and mortar classes is increasing at an exponential pace, while access via the LCC "pipe" is increasing linearly. In discussing the bandwidth issue with Thad Cowden, I learned that each time we increase the size of our pipe, we find that data traffic ratchets up within days such that once again demand exceeds capacity and delays impede the utility of our Internet use. One result is that instructors are leery of introducing best practices for distributed learning or adopting rich content that takes full advantage of Web 2.0 technologies, and another is that we cannot provide even good levels of access on many days during the academic year. Some improvement in page loading resulted from doubling our server space on Remote Learner, but bandwidth access remains a limiting factor for most connections, especially at peak usage times.
- While wait time is clearly an issue with timed tests, it also contributes significantly to how students experience their use of technology at and from Lane. If wait times are unacceptably long, student satisfaction decreases, and as we have come to understand from the CCSSE studies, student achievement and success are closely correlated with satisfaction.
- Outreach and marketing efforts likewise can be improved by ensuring speedy access to streaming media. Nothing says "outdated" and "irrelevant" like sluggish webpage loading and media streaming that jerks or stalls. To ensure Lane's position as a local and national leader in innovative educational delivery we must devote additional resources to bandwidth.

- Build organizational capacity and systems to support student success and effective operations.
- Create, enhance, and maintain inviting and welcoming facilities that are safe, accessible, functional, well-equipped, aesthetically appealing and environmentally sound.
- Foster the personal, professional, and intellectual growth of learners by providing exemplary and innovative teaching and learning experiences and student support services.
- Position Lane as a vital community partner by empowering a learning workforce in a changing economy.

Learning Plan Goals

- Commit additional resources to the creation, development, and implementation of distance learning courses and degree programs.
- Create innovative, flexible and collaborative programs that are responsive to current and emerging needs of students and employers.
- Increase support for innovation in instruction.

Student Affairs Plan Goals

- Create innovative, flexible, and collaborative programs that are responsive to the needs of students and employers and facilitate a smooth transition from college to the workplace.
- Develop a campus-wide, coordinated, and targeted marketing strategy to enhance enrollment and image in the community.
- Enhance Recruitment Efforts.

College Council Priorities

- 1.b. Enrollment Management: Recruitment and Retention
- 1.c. Enrollment Management: Workforce Development
- 1.d. Enrollment Management: International Education
- 1.e. Enrollment Management: Increase Credit Enrollment Level
- 1.f. Enrollment Management: Partnerships with 4-year Colleges and Universities
- 3. Efficiencies
- 4.3 Responding to unit plans/council plans: Enhancing Classrooms
- 5.2 Instructional Redesign: Leveraging Technology

Questions and Answers

How is the initiative linked to the Unit Plans most recently submitted?

1. How does it continue the achievement of those goals?

2. *If this is a continuation of an initiative started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.*

How is this initiative linked to the efficiencies and productivities plans you had last year?

- 1. How does it continue the achievement of these plans?
- 2. If this is a continuation of an efficiency or productivity plan started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.
- The Distance Learning Department has not previously filed Unit Plans, but has been included in planning work done by the Information Technology Division. An overall goal for IT has been to maximize the benefit of limited resources, yet demand is now far exceeding capacity and growth in demand is greater than increase in purchased bandwidth.
- By scaling up the size of our Internet pipe, we can expect improvements in the efficiency of delivery of distributed learning pedagogies. In addition to improvements to student success, bandwidth increases will also enhance our ability to provide accessible education. Furthermore, instructor efficiency and productivity will be improved.

Describe the resources needed:

- Bandwidth is purchased in megabytes (megs) at \$4000 per meg per year. Each meg can be purchased by the month, although we usually arrange for 12-month blocks. Since we do not know the actual peak demand for bandwidth we cannot know the best amount to buy. I am proposing a two step purchase: first an increase of 5 megs in September 2008, and if demand again results in saturated routers by December, a second increase of an additional 5 megs in January 2009.
- For comparison purposes, we currently purchase 15 megs each year. {NOTE ADDED LATER: We just increased to 20 meg and traffic, although undeniably is moving more rapidly, still maxed out the pipe)

*Category: M&S

- Funding: Tech Fee / Carl Perkins
- Step 1: 10 months, 5 megs @ \$16,700
- Step 2: 6 months, 5 megs @ \$10,000
- Total = \$26,700
- If the initiative is only funded partially, or if demand is met by the additional purchase:

10 months, 5 megs = \$16,700

What specific measurable program outcomes do you expect to achieve with this initiative? The outcomes should be specific enough to be measurable. Also, outline the method that will be used to determine the results.

- We expect that students using the Internet for completion of class projects or for accessing class material will report increased satisfaction in their use of technology. At present we assess the student experience in all distance learning courses, so we have a baseline indicator for reference.
- We also have qualitative measures of student and staff experiences for reference.

Department Priority:

2

Unit Resources:

The DL department will allocate \$2000 during AY08-09 to leverage other resources. We also have a commitment from the Business Department for \$2000, contingent upon no further reductions in general fund M&S budgets for their department.

Carl Perkins Funding Request

Is this a Career & Technical Education program approved by the state and offered through Lane for credit?

Yes

If not a Career & Technical Education program, does your request provide considerable support for students enrolled in these programs?

No

Do you have an advisory committee that meets 2-3 times per year?

Yes

If request is for personnel, will funds be used to replace an existing position?

Question Not Answered

How will funding this initiative increase or sustain the academic achievement and technical skills attainment (GPA of 2.0 or better) of Career and Technical Education students?

- At Lane and and across the country, instructors producing and using complex and rich media for delivery across the Internet. Usage has increased at an exponential rate, while the pipeline size has not. Students in several programs, especially Business and Dental Hygiene, are therefore faced with access limitations. The Energy Management and the Respiratory Care Program are also planning to move to a DL modality, with heavy reliance on streaming video and audio. The current pipeline is too small and with the addition of a streaming media server, the demand will only grow faster.
- Student academic achievement and technical skills attainment will become increasingly curtailed for students in programs relying on access to the Internet; increasing the pipeline size will increase student success and satisfaction.

How will funding this initiative increase or sustain the number of CTE students that graduate or receive a one year certificate from Lane and help prepare the students for employment?

• In addition to speeding delivery of instructional material, we will be able to reach more students in distant sites, which is especially critical to the Dental Hygiene and Energy Management programs. Increasing enrollment in these and other programs can only be sustained if we can provide reliable Internet access to instructional materials

EQUIPMENT \$

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER HARDWARE \$

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER SOFTWARE \$

Question Not Answered

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES \$

26700.00

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (Hours)

Question Not Answered

PART-TIME FACULTY \$

Question Not Answered

TIMESHEET STAFF \$

Question Not Answered

 $TRAVEL\ \$$

Question Not Answered

Can this initiative be partially funded?

Yes

EQUIPMENT \$

Question Not Answered

(E) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER HARDWARE \$

Question Not Answered

(CH) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER SOFTWARE \$

Question Not Answered

(CS) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES \$

16700.00

(MS) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

We will purchase only 5 megs for 10 months instead of the two step process which would add another 5 megs for 6 months. We still do not know the actual demand for Internet access, although comparable schools with comparable web presences purchase about 25 megs per year.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (HOURS)

Question Not Answered

(CD) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

PART-TIME FACULTY \$

Question Not Answered

(PF) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

TIMESHEET STAFF \$

Question Not Answered

(TS) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

TRAVEL \$

Question Not Answered

(T) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

Curriculum Development Funding Request

Technology Fee Funding Request

1. Category of request

- Maintain existing technology
- Increase student access to technology
- New technology

Please type in the category of the request in the field below.

Increase student access to technology

2. Campus location

- Main Campus
- Downtown Center
- Florence
- Cottage Grove
- CLC (list specific locations)

Please type in the location of the request in the field below.

Main

3. Names of the person(s) with more information (if needed):

Kyle Hammon

4a. Budget ORGN

330140

4b. Budget PROG

510000

5. *How many students will benefit per year?*

• This is difficult to estimate, as potentially all Lane students would benefit. There are now several hundred courses that have some course content online through Moodle, with scores more requiring students to use the internet for research.

6. Describe the benefit?

• Everything from registration to final course evaluations, billing, schedule planning, as well as access to instructional materials - all will be be more easily available to students. Less time will be spent waiting for pages to load, and seamless and smooth delivery of audio and video streams or downloads will become the norm rather than the exception. All of these benefits contribute to student satisfaction as well as achievement and success.

COMPUTER HARDWARE \$

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER SOFTWARE \$

Question Not Answered

STAFFING \$

Question Not Answered

INSTALLATION \$

26700.00

LICENSING \$

Question Not Answered

Can this initiative be partially funded?

Yes

COMPUTER HARDWARE \$

Question Not Answered

(CH) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

COMPUTER SOFTWARE \$

Question Not Answered

(CS) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

STAFFING \$

Question Not Answered

(S) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered

INSTALLATION \$

16700.00

(I) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

We will purchase only 5 megs for 10 months instead of the two step process which would add another 5 megs for 6 months. We still do not know the actual demand for Internet access, although comparable schools purchase about 25 megs per year.

LICENSING \$

Question Not Answered

(L) Explanation of effect of partial funding:

Question Not Answered