

UNC TLT Collaborative Spring 2001 Campus Funding Allocations

- 1. Campus:** Western Carolina University
- 2. Campus office that is to receive the funding allocation:** Office for Academic Affairs
- 3. Accounting information:** WCU budget code 1 – 52733 - 5200
- 4. Project Category or Categories:**

TLT Wireless/handheld computing

Other Campuses receiving allocations in this category:

ECU, NCAT, NCCU, NCSU, UNC-C, UNC-W, WCU, WSSU

5. Project Description:

This semester, WCU is conducting a pilot project on the use of palm devices in the classroom. Nine students have been group scheduled into the liberal studies classes ENGL 102: English Composition II, HEAL 120: Health and Personal Fitness, and LAW 105: Personal Law. Each of the nine students has been issued a PDA for use in these classes. Palm Inc. has donated loan devices for this pilot study as well as development and technical support. Western Carolina University has purchased Compaq iPaq units to allow comparison of different operating systems. (Students used the Palm Pilots during the first half of the semester, and are using the Compaq iPaqs during the second half.) Wireless points of access have been installed in the appropriate classrooms as well as in the library, University Center, and cafeterias. For comparison purposes, each of the instructors is also teaching this semester a second section of the same course without use of the palm devices (a control group).

With the help of funding from the Collaborative, Western is planning to run two separate course pilot tests next fall, one course probably at the sophomore level, and one at the junior level. (These would be two separate sets of students using the palm units.) We will follow our model of each instructor also teaching a "control" section of the same course that semester, but not using the palm devices there, and then comparing the behaviors and learning outcomes of the two sections. We would use the Collaborative funding to purchase additional iPaqs and points of access to be able to operate these two separate test courses.

6. Collaboration with other UNC Campuses:

The web pages on the UNC TLT Collaborative Portal will provide resources for faculty system-wide and will include and request links to projects throughout the system. In addition, the pedagogical pages will encourage collaborative work to further investigate and report on the use of handhelds in university teaching environments. By providing

links to faculty using handhelds, opportunity to share and discuss ideas for using handhelds, and methodologies for evaluating the success of the use of handhelds, the pages will facilitate opportunities for system-wide collaboration.

7. Deliverables in addition to those specified for all 2001 UNC TLT funding allocations: As specified.