

Appalachian State University has begun a major cooperative effort with eight community colleges in our service region (Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Catawaba Community College, Cleveland Community College, Isothermal Community College, Mayland Community College, Surry Community College, Western Piedmont Community College, Wilkes Community College,) called the Appalachian Learning Alliance. The purpose of this alliance is to provide complete undergraduate and graduate degree programs to students who are place bound and unable, for whatever reason, to come to the Appalachian campus in Boone. Much of the instruction in these programs is done by two-way telecourses over the NCIH and using the World Wide Web as support and supplemental instruction.

We are proposing to record every instructor presentation for every course offered via the NCIH and place the video on a server so that students may review the content at their convenience. This would provide access to the presentation to any student that missed a class, as well as opportunities to review material prior to tests. The site would also house any graphic, text or interactive materials that the faculty member wished to make available to the student as a web based resource. Storing all of this information on campus would require significant storage space and has potential access problems as multiple students from multiple sites attempt to access information from multiple courses. By sending specific course support data to local server we can speed up access and reduce the number of concurrent users.

There are two direct and several secondary benefits in this approach. The first direct benefit is the distribution of these digital materials to a server at the local site eliminates problems associated with bandwidth traffic. These bandwidth issues would be eliminated from both the statewide network and locally on the Appalachian campus because all of the course material would be local to the community college. The second direct benefit is the reduced use of on-campus server space for these materials specific to the distance learning students.

Secondary benefits include: faster and better access time for the students, local management server and protocols for compatibility with the local community college computer labs, local technical support if needed, and if there are students in the same program at more than one site, it provides mirrored information for the classes.

The results of these efforts will be disseminated by all appropriate means. Information will be posted on Appalachian's Distance Learning Services web site, links to the UNC's TLT PORTAL will be requested, presentations will be prepared for events such as the Annual Technology Conference at NC State and the Annual NCIH Stakeholders Conference, as well as national conferences, and scholarly articles will be written for publication.

Grant request

8 Servers, storage and software (one each for the community colleges) \$5,000 each = \$40,000

Provided by Appalachian

Television Production Assistant 1 Grade 63	Annual Salary	\$25,000
Canon XL-1 Digital Video Camera		\$4,000
Sorenson Video Capture and Streaming Software		\$500
CPU to capture and FTP files		\$2,500

The following resources will be provided by Appalachian if this effort is funded. All personnel necessary to execute this project, digital video equipment to capture the classes as they are being taught, software to convert the video to a streaming format and a CPU to capture and FTP the files to the remote servers located at the various community colleges.