

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.3 Partial release of Technology Initiatives Program funds

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, H.B. 675 (state capital budget bill) appropriated \$3,650,000 for Technology Initiative Program awards to be made by the Board of Regents to support collaborative initiatives that will improve the quality and efficiency of instruction, services, and program offerings at Ohio's state-assisted colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, a process was established and implemented to distribute the money for selective collaborations that address service and instructional needs of the state in four areas: (1) The Ohio Digital Commons, (2) Third Frontier Network Applications, (3) The Distributed Learning Workshop and (4) Back Office Shared Services, and

WHEREAS, a statewide Technology Initiatives Advisory Committee made up of representatives from Ohio's state-assisted and private college and university leadership and augmented by representation from the Office of Budget and Management, Legislative Office of Education Oversight, Ohio Learning Network and the Ohio Resource Center/Eisenhower National Clearing House reviewed proposals and recommended release of funds to support 5 awards in the amount of \$2,466,602 at the July Board of Regents meeting. Of the remaining amount of \$1,183,398, \$1,100,000 is now being recommended for release based on a thorough Advisory Committee review of a plan to implement a Technology Initiatives Program effort called the Ohio Commons for Digital Education described in the attached material and made a part hereof. The remaining amount of \$83,398 will be released at a later date.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Resource Committee, a Technology Initiatives Award be made in the amount of \$1,100,000 for support of an Ohio Commons for Digital Education and that the funds be distributed as follows: Ohio Learning Network/Ohio State University \$620,000; OhioLINK/Wright State University \$330,000; and the Ohio Supercomputer Center/Ohio State University \$150,000.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES PROGRAM AWARDS
JANUARY 22, 2004

As the use of technology-enhanced learning has grown, the burdens placed on the campus information technology infrastructure have also grown. In recognition of this growing burden, the three Ohio Commons for Digital Education (OCDE) sponsors—the Ohio Learning Network, Ohio Supercomputer Center and OhioLINK—have recognized their need to collaboratively approach the problem of developing a shared e-learning infrastructure. Together they developed the vision of the Ohio Commons for Digital Education, a shared infrastructure that can help campuses improve and extend their e-learning efforts, while simultaneously helping them better manage the technology costs associated with such programs.

To build this shared infrastructure, the OCDE proposes to undertake four projects. These are as follows:

1. Development of centralized implementations of two course management systems (CMS), WebCT and Blackboard, that can be shared by other institutions, reducing the burden of locally managing and maintaining CMS systems.
2. Creation of a means of sharing instructional materials among CMS. This will permit greater inter-campus sharing of the electronic instructional materials they buy or develop.
3. Extension of the OhioLINK Digital Media Center to better support faculty storage and sharing of the electronic educational materials faculty use in their courses.
4. Implementation of a pilot system that can be used to authenticate the students who want to use the courseware resources at the central OCDE site.

Collectively, these projects will provide a new infrastructure that supports campus sharing of the course management system software that they use to manage their electronic classes and greater sharing of instructional materials and faculty information resources.