OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.11   Partial release of Technology Initiatives funds

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, H.B. 675 (state capital budget bill) appropriated $3,650,000 for Technology Initiative Fund awards to be used by the Board of Regents to award grants to publicly-assisted institutions of higher education in Ohio; 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 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 recommends immediate release of funds to support 5 awards in the amount of $2,466,602 (list appended). The remaining amount of $1,183,398 will be released at a later date pending receipt of additional information.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Resource Committee, Technology Initiatives Awards be made in accordance with the list attached and made a part hereof.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES PROGRAM AWARDS
JULY 17, 2003

TOPIC	PARTICIPANTS	AWARD AMT.

Shared Back Office Services

HEI Data Reporting	NEOUCOM, Miami Univ., Central State Univ., Lakeland Com. Coll., Walsh Univ., CCC	$ 217,400
Large-scale Data Backup For Disaster Recovery	Ohio Supercomputer Center, Cleveland State Univ., Miami Univ., Wright State Univ...	252,560
Mainframe Computing Alliance	OSU, U. of Cincinnati, Ohio Univ., Univ. of Toledo	216,654

Third Frontier Network Applications

Application Testbed and Monitoring Equipment	OARnet, Kent State Univ., OSU, Southern State, Univ. of Toledo, Wright State Univ., OARtech	
AND		
Cincinnati Education Research Fiber Loop Application Testbed	Univ. of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State	1,029,988

Distributed Learning Workshop

Remedial and Pre-Collegiate Mathematics Courseware	Ohio Resource Center, Eisenhower National Clearinghouse	750,000

TOTAL RELEASED	$2,466,602
To Be Released at a Later Date	$1,183,398

Abstracts of projects proposed to be funded follow:

HEI Data Reporting – This project will provide a collaborative approach to developing, monitoring and maintaining the computer processes needed to create the required Ohio HEI Data Reports for institutions using SCT Banner as their administrative software system. It will eliminate the duplication of effort by identifying a single Service Center with on-going responsibility for maintaining Ohio HEI Data Reporting requirements. At least 18 Ohio colleges and universities will benefit from this effort.

Large-scale Data Backup for Disaster Recovery – The backup and recovery of large amounts of critical administrative data is a concern to Ohio colleges and

universities. Every institution must invest in local storage, in backup software and hardware and in mechanisms for moving a copy of data, most frequently on tape, to an off-site location. This project will provide a shared, central storage facility for backup of data files. This collaborative effort will result in a more comprehensive and cost effective solution to the disaster recovery problem.

Mainframe Computing Alliance – This project will continue a strategic mainframe computing alliance between The Ohio State University and The University of Cincinnati. In the event of a disaster, the two institutions will be able to continue mainframe computer operations with only a minor interruption to students, faculty, staff and research activities. In addition to the primary partnership between these two universities, the University of Toledo and Ohio University will be participating by using OSU as the disaster recovery site for their respective mainframe environments. Once fully implemented, this arrangement will be further extensible to allow other institutions in Ohio using mainframes to participate.

Application Testbed and Monitoring Equipment – As the Third Frontier Network is completed, care must be taken to ensure that Ohio institutions will be able to take advantage of the network for applications that enhance teaching and research. This project will assess the extent of problems that may occur, demonstrate the appropriate infrastructure requirements for several high bandwidth network applications, improve tools that campuses can use to assess their current infrastructure and forecast campus infrastructure costs. This work will provide a comprehensive testing program that will follow several exemplary applications from end-to-end, identify bottlenecks and promulgate appropriate solutions.

Cincinnati Education Research Fiber Loop Application Testbed – This proposal takes advantage of the existing Cincinnati Education Research Fiber Loop network between the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State, which is a prototype of the Third Frontier Network. Video and audio transmission will be analyzed across this network to determine bottlenecks which lead to loss of data integrity and solutions will be devised to overcome these problems. A variety of firewall issues will also be investigated such that a number of potential solutions to the firewall problem can be communicated to other institutions with the State.

Remedial and Pre-Collegiate Mathematics Courseware – The Ohio Resource Center and the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse propose to complete and deploy the Distributed Learning Workshop mathematics courseware (that reflect the mathematics academic content standards) in 2-year, 4-year and K-12 institutions across Ohio, specifically to:
- extend the value of the materials to Ohio's educational community by adding new content modules
- add cross-platform capabilities so as to be available to Macintosh users
- develop an assessment component for accurate placement in the modules

Over the past two years, the Workshop has developed computer-mediated mathematics instructional modules with partial funding from the Ohio Board of Regents. The materials are part of a pilot program at Terra Community College for returning workforce needs. The materials can appropriately be used for high school mathematics students, to address workforce development needs, for remedial programs in higher education and for supplementary or after school programs.