

\*Project Name: North / Far NorthRegion NetLabs+ Pilot Program – Folsom Lake College

Please enter the name (or a descriptive title) of the specific program seeking support.

\*Project Amount (\$) \$51,948

\*Project Start Date November 15, 2014

\*Project End Date August 2015

\*Describe the project for which you are seeking funding (3-5 short sentences)

Seeking the purchase of a 16 Pod NetLabs+ Academic Edition System, including necessary hardware and software (Cost Quotation \$49,949.38 from SIGMAnet). Primary purpose of this system is to develop a “pilot” environment where the system can be utilized to provide faculty from the seventeen (17) colleges in the region with professional development on both how to configure and utilize NetLabs+ in their own classrooms, and provide professional development to faculty on a variety of courses that are available for use in a NetLabs+ environment that have been developed by entities like CSSIA and CTC, in partnership with the Net Development Group. System will also be utilized by the Region’s faculty and content development experts to (1) update existing course content, and (2) create new course content, that can be housed in a NetLabs+ virtual environment.

\*Describe the need, problem and/or opportunity addressed by the project. How did you identify the particular need addressed by your proposal? Please provide measurable evidence if applicable.

The North / Far North Region is unique in its nature. In terms of its location it can be easily described as the area with its southerly boundary Sacramento, and everything North to the Oregon Border. It consists of seventeen (17) community colleges. Seven (7) colleges are within thirty (30) miles of the State Capitol. The remaining ten (10) colleges, widely disbursed throughout the region, with some colleges measuring the drive time to their closest neighboring college in hours. None of the colleges in the region currently possesses a NetLabs+ system. College faculty, through the efforts of the DSNs in the Region have experienced faculty development training in a NetLabs+ environment.

For our rural colleges, the opportunity to provide students with the training associated with core ICT subjects (e.g. Networking and Security) has not existed due to the cost associated with purchasing the computer equipment to run these courses. All colleges in the Region, this project will provide the opportunity to train faculty from throughout the Region the ability to gain grow in terms of knowledge and experience relative to the course content provided through faculty development.

**\*Describe how you will use funds:**

Through the support provided by the Region's two (2) DSNs, faculty have taken advantage of the learning opportunities provided by MPICT, their winter/summer conferences. Faculty have participated in similar conferences and other functions (specifically online training) provided by BATEC and CSSIA. We understand that MPICT funded faculty training will likely end at the conclusion of this academic year. Faculty, particularly in the rural areas of our State, need an effective and convenient way to access meaningful faculty development opportunities. This pilot opportunity will meet that objective. Additionally, there is an ongoing Regional effort, led by faculty and administration from the four (4) colleges in the Los Rios District, to seek funding from the "Regional Projects" allocation of "CTE Enhancement Funds" a "Regional Netlabs+ Hub," and obtaining funding for this project will be viewed as a commitment by the Sector Navigator as to the Hub's value.

**\*Why is this the right time for this project?**

Prior to the development of the Internet, ICT related positions had their ties to geographic regions. This is changing, as evidenced by what NetLabs+ brings to the table. The standard model in providing hands-on training relative to ICT courses centered upon having students come to physical labs at the college, during designated times, completing their labs on the equipment provided by their college. NetLabs+ flips this model. It provides 7/24 availability from any Internet accessible location, where students can complete their ICT lab assignments on equipment that has available resources to facilitate complex and challenging labs that cannot be done on the typical computer lab equipment generally used today at our colleges. For example, NetLabs+ provides a sharing environment where individual colleges can contribute resources (e.g. Cisco Equipment) that can be brought into the NetLabs+ environment and shared among the students we serve.

**\*Describe your organization's ability to implement the project. Please include staff strength and operational & fiscal management.**

Folsom Lake is one of four (4) colleges in the Los Rios District. Each of the college currently teaches a wide variety of ICT courses. Its three (3) sister colleges and the District supports this effort and are willing to provide additional resources, necessary to make this project a success. The College's IT Department fully supports this effort and has the available space to house the hardware, the available bandwidth to provide remote access to the NetLabs+ environment, and the available skilled personnel in the IT to deal with maintenance, insuring the product's availability. The District and its colleges are committed to providing access to this resource for faculty from throughout the State, recognizing the opportunities and benefits that will accrue including the cooperative maintenance and development of labs that can be used by all faculty for the benefit of their students.

**\*What is the most difficult aspect of this project that could affect your success?**

Convincing faculty from other colleges to participate in faculty development activities. With the promised support of our two (2) DSNs to assist in the communication of faculty development opportunities available through the NetLabs+ project. We recognize that faculty may be reluctant to change and introducing them to the NetLabs+ and demonstrating its capabilities is a key component to the project's success.

**\*Will you be requiring any resources from your Deputy Sector Navigator (DSN) other than funding for the project? Please explain.**

Yes. We are fortunate in that Steve Linthicum, DSN for the Greater Sacramento Region has extensive experience, both teaching and taking classes in the NetLabs+ environment. That experience includes having taken a course that specifically covered the administration of the environment including pod setup and setting up student accounts. It is anticipated that he will be assisting in both establishing and teaching professional development classes for faculty. Professor Linthicum has also provided a commitment of funding for mini-grants and stipends that will help to obtain faculty involvement in the projects relating to curriculum development and professional development.

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**Given that you will share your results at the conclusion of your project, what are your plans to make your proposed project available for the NetLAB User Group and for your DSN, and how will you increase the effectiveness of your**

A project deliverable will include a report that will encompass the project plan, experiences relating to the efforts of the project team, and the project successes and challenges. This is not a single college effort, but an effort that will be shared across the entire region, with a goal of providing faculty development activities for faculty from both inside the region and outside of the region when possible.

Since this is a teaching environment and a sharing environment, it is hoped that members of the NetLAB User Group will participate both as users and contributors to the environment and it can be utilized for lab development projects.