

\*Project Name: LACCD Regional/District NetLAB Hub

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

\*Project Amount (\$) \$47,697.00

\*Project Start Date Immediately upon grant funding

\*Project End Date June 30, 2015

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

West LA College wishes to establish a regional NetLAB hub to support three sister campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District. As one of the earliest adopters of NetLAB, West is uniquely qualified to lead this initiative. Successful funding and implementation will allow other sister campuses to offer and support non-existing IT vocational training programs by leveraging West existing NetLAB infrastructure. This initiative will clearly lead to better effective access to IT training resources, enhanced certification preparation, and better support for the district's online student population. West has already made a significant investment in NetLAB, but only needs modest additional funding to expand in order to support targeted campuses. Our proposed project has a high probability of success. West and its administration has already committed to a NetLAB Data Center currently hosting 17 servers with dedicated power (including UPS), cooling, and backup storage.

\*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.

Capital funding limitations and lack of expertise within the district has prevented or hindered other campuses within the district from offering advanced IT vocational training. Although, there are two other campuses in the district offering Cisco courses, no other campus offers 24/7 access to Cisco hardware as afforded by NetLAB. In addition, West is the only campus offering 24/7 remote access to VMware, EMC, Security, Microsoft (general IT pods) resources. Other campuses are offering access to CBT simulation resources, but students must be given the opportunity to work with real software. Employers do not consider training based on simulation products sufficient for gaining real-world skills.

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

**Establish School District Hub using the existing NetLAB Data Center at West Los Angeles College:**

4 – Cisco MAP Pods (\$5,062 each, Cisco academy pricing) - \$20,256.00

3 – Dell Servers (\$4,882 each, Dell academic pricing) - \$14,646.00

1 – NetLAB Academy Edition - \$9,995.00 (needed due to current simultaneous connection limits)

1 – Enclosed Secured Server Rack (cables, hardware, control switch, power strips) - \$2,800

Total = \$47,697.00

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

West has just recently completed the first phase of establishing a NetLAB Data Center that can function as a regional hub for the Los Angeles Community College District. As previously stated, this included dedicating a room (CE105B), establishing dedicated power on separate circuits, acquiring eight uninterruptible power supplies (six outlets per UPS), approved funding for dedicated 24/7 air-conditioning system and the purchased of a NAS (8TB) backup server. We are now uniquely positioned to support this proposal, but in need of additional hardware to assure appropriate access and system responsiveness.

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

Associate Professor Marcus Butler will lead this effort. He is Cisco and VMware certified and currently responsible for NetLAB administrative and instructional support. Mr. Butler was responsible for the initial NetLAB roll-out in 2007 affording him over seven of NetLAB experience. Mr. Butler has built numerous pod configurations including, general IT pods and custom pods. He also has extensive server and storage experience. Under his management the college's NetLAB installation supports over eleven courses per semester and has enjoyed over 99.1% uptime. Mr. Butler was also the project leader on implementing the NetLAB Data Center. Mr. Butler coordinated all efforts between the vendors, administration, and plant facility.

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

There are few barriers to success as it relates to this proposal. Our existing NetLAB infrastructure currently supports our Cisco, Microsoft and VMware Academies. Instructors at other campuses wishing to leverage our NetLAB infrastructure only need to learn how to create a class and enroll students into the class. Instructor training will also be provided as part of an existing instructor training program called Tech Faire. There will be no cost for this training, as it already funded from other sources. Administrative and system support will be provided by West. There is consideration for a possible lab fee to offset future costs associated with on-going maintenance and/or upgrades. But, this lab fee is currently being estimated at less than \$15 to \$20 per student.

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

None will be required.

**\*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 work for the larger community? What would be your target audience?**

The college is prepared to share its current success related to NetLAB, as well as this proposed project. There are discussions taking place currently and others have expressed interest in our proposed project. Although, only three campuses have been immediately identified, there are nine campuses within the district that can benefit, as well. It should be clear that our goal is to serve as a regional/district NetLAB hub for all nine campuses.