



# Carl Sandburg College

August 1, 2005

## EDUNET NEWS

EDUNET, a broadband wireless wide area communication network designed for the purpose of transmitting/receiving data, Internet, audio, and video traffic. EDUNET is owned and operated by Carl Sandburg College in partnership with the K-12 school districts within the CSC district.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

The count - So far nine school districts have joined EDUNET - Abingdon, West Central, United, Monmouth/ Roseville, Knoxville, Avon, Galesburg, Yorkwood and Williamsfield. Several other Boards will consider EDUNET during August.

In this issue we provide dual credit information for our current and future EDUNET partners. We think dual credits are win-win-win for students, school districts and Carl Sandburg College. See if you agree. In the next issue we will address E-Rate. Forward ho!

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### **DUAL CREDIT BENEFITS**

1. Reduce time period to finish college degree (enter workforce sooner)
2. Less expensive tuition rate at CSC versus any 4-year institution (public or private)
3. No additional housing expenses for students while earning dual credit in HS
4. Provides more diverse curriculum for HS Juniors & Seniors
5. May keep HS Seniors from selecting mid-term graduation if they can earn college credit, remain in HS and still participate in HS sports and activities
6. Allows HS students to fulfill many general education requirements and ease their transition into a university setting during their early semesters away from home

7. Provides college level course work experience to HS students in a more controlled environment (while living at home)
8. Many HS faculty have appropriate credentials to teach dual credit classes (Master's degree in their discipline for transfer courses)
9. If HS instructor teaches dual credit class during their base school day, then CSC pays HS for the instruction (pay range \$480 - \$558 per credit hour value or \$1,440 - \$1,674 for each 3 semester hour course. (A financial benefit to school district!))
10. If HS instructor teaches dual credit class outside of base teaching load (early bird or late afternoon class) then CSC pays instructor directly
11. Opportunity for HS instructors to teach dual credit classes may encourage more faculty to earn their master's degree.

### **DUAL CREDIT FACTS**

- Attention fiscal conservatives like me! CSC reimburses districts for the instructional cost for dual credit classes if one of the district's teachers teach it during the school day. This would be a revenue enhancement for a cash strapped district! See #9 above.
- There are two categories of dual credit courses that may be offered - transfer courses and occupational courses. An audit would show that most dual credit courses taught through CSC are transfer courses.
- Schools need 10 enrolled students to offer a transfer dual credit class; 8 for an occupational class. Note: Dual credit courses taught through EDUNET allow a school to have fewer enrolled students because it can combine enrollment with one or more other schools to achieve the minimum number.
- There are several ways to offer dual credit courses:

1. A district teacher with a master's degree in the subject area teaches the class at the high school site, during or outside the school day.
  2. Students are transported to CSC during the school day to take the course.
  3. A CSC teacher teaches the course at the high school.
  4. The school offers a distance learning class either during or outside the school day using a CSC teacher or a teacher from another district. Note: To set up a classroom with the proper equipment needed to offer a distance learning classroom costs districts about \$7,000; which is down from the most recent cost of \$9-12,000, and significantly less than the \$70,000 common several years ago.
- High school students do not qualify for financial aid; however, the Carl Sandburg College Foundation is soliciting funds for dual credit scholarships.
  - Many small rural high schools in the CSC district offer dual credits and we anticipate more now with EDUNET.
  - Districts that offer at least one dual credit course receive a discounted EDUNET monthly fee.
  - Warsaw CUSD #316 is a dual credit shining star within the CSC district. At last count Warsaw had 81% of the seniors and 50% of the juniors taking at least one dual credit course.

### ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

Districts wanting more information about dual credit courses or assistance in setting up a dual credit course may contact Sherry Berg, Dean of Community and Extension Services. She would be pleased to hear from you. Sherry's contact information is:  
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### ***DESIGN AND LOGISTICS UPDATE***

EDUNET is expected to be operational to deliver basic services to its partner districts before school begins. While we certainly need rain, the weather has helped DerbyTech keep up with the aggressive schedule it laid out for itself this summer. Wireless Backbone Towers are already installed with efforts underway to secure the remainder of the key sites. Those already in place or under construction are:

- Biggsville (water tower) - complete
- Yorkwood (Twomey) - complete
- Roseville (grain elevator) - complete
- Stronghurst (water tower) - complete
- LaHarpe (water tower) - complete
- Abingdon (high school) - complete
- Carthage (water tower) - 80% complete
- Monmouth (water tower) - 80% complete

DerbyTech is close to reaching agreements with city councils to install equipment in Knoxville, Rapatee, Avon and Sciota, and are awaiting approval from a private elevator company in Augusta. Representatives will make presentations to city councils in Warsaw, Wataga, Farmington, Bushnell and Industry over the next few weeks. Sites are being reviewed in the Nauvoo/Colusa/Dallas City area.

Several school districts are "hooked up" and are undergoing 30-day tests. They are West Central (Biggsville and Stronghurst) and United. Galesburg and Knoxville High Schools are installed but not yet hooked up. Monmouth High School is scheduled for the week of July 25.

The next monthly meeting of the design and logistics team is set for **9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 9**, in the Carl Sandburg College Board Room. All participating and prospective superintendents are welcome to attend and/or send representatives to attend this meeting.