



Carl Sandburg College

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Issue 11

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.

FROM THE COORDINATOR

I hope this little newsletter finds everyone happy and well when it arrives in their in-baskets. I also hope that it includes information that has some value to you. Time is also a valuable commodity so forward ho!

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EXPANDED DESIGN AND LOGISTICS MEETING

The next monthly meeting to review EduNet's progress is set for **9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 23**, in the Carl Sandburg College Board Room (Building E). On the agenda for the "Design and Logistics" meeting: 1) DerbyTech Update; 2) WIU Update; 3) Questions from Districts; 4) Next Steps.

In addition, **James Arney** of Pratt Audio Visual and Video Corporation will be present to provide a distance learning equipment demonstration for superintendents and technology coordinators after the meeting. He will bring pricing information and answer questions about what is needed to set up a distance learning classroom. Please try to attend this meeting to see what's new with distance learning equipment.

DESIGN AND LOGISTICS UPDATE

We last met on January 19. Thanks to all who could attend. I'm including notes taken from the meeting below:

1. The backbone for EduNet is completed with two peering points for redundancy and protection. It also includes a load balancing component.
2. The only issue of concern right now is when power goes off in a community for more than two hours. (The system contains a backup that will maintain power when down

for less than two hours. DerbyTech is working on a solution.

3. Ten school districts are currently members with another five possibly joining later this Spring for 2006-2007.
4. WIU recently joined EduNet. It will be broadcasting 3rd and 4th year college courses and masters and doctoral classes through EduNet. Representatives from CSC and WIU have begun meeting to work out the details. More information will be forthcoming about this exciting program.
5. The University of Illinois Extension (Knox County) is poised to join EduNet later this January. Last month it joined the Education Technology Center in Galesburg, which is a cooperative endeavor between Galesburg CUSD #205, Carl Sandburg College and Knox College. This addition will make the 24-hour Channel 22 programming more robust for our EduNet partners.
6. For Channel 22 help, partners should contact CSC's Fred Johnson, Coordinator of Teledata Network Services at: 309-341-5288
fjohnson@sandburg.edu
7. For distance learning equipment questions, contact Fritz Archer, Coordinator of Audiovisual Services at: (309) 341-5258
farcher@sandburg.edu
8. The next step in the plan is to roll out the commercial end of the operation. (Remember that the commercial end has allowed us to keep EduNet fees to a minimum.) This has been eagerly anticipated in certain areas of the Carl Sandburg district. DerbyTech is currently beta testing the program and hopes to begin selling subscriptions early to mid February. The costs are \$120 set up cost with monthly

fees of \$25 faculty; \$40 students; and \$50 general community. Some communities do not want DerbyTech competing with local companies and their wishes will be honored. Once confident that the system will work well, DerbyTech will prepare information for distribution about how people can enroll. Questions may be directed to:

Jeff Thompson
DerbyTech
309-755-2662 Ext. 202
jefft@derbyworks.com

9. James Arney, from Pratt Audio Visual and Video Corporation, attended the meeting to answer questions about distance learning equipment. Participants asked Mr. Arney to return next month to show and demonstrate his equipment. (See invitation above.) Mr. Arney stated that technology has reached the point where \$3,000 is all that is needed to purchase enough equipment to receive a distance learning class. This is a far cry from the \$75,000 needed not too many years ago!
10. Samuel Sudhakar reported that something new CSC is beginning to work on is a data recovery service for school districts to be sold at a competitive rate. More on this will be reported as the program unfolds.

AUDIO VISUAL AND DISTANCE LEARNING EQUIPMENT

Carl Sandburg College has established a partnership with Pratt Audio Visual & Video Corporation of Bettendorf, IA for the purchase, installation and sale of Audio Visual and Distance Learning equipment. This will give school districts another alternative when purchasing equipment. The Contact at Pratt AV is:

James Arney
Pratt AV
1443 Brown Street
Bettendorf, IA 52722
800-798-1825
Fax: 563-359-7104
jamesa@prattav.com

EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION MEETINGS REPORT

Carl Sandburg Community College District #518 was pleased to facilitate three regional meetings on course and teacher sharing with our public school administrators. These meetings explored ways to expand high school curriculum and dual credit opportunities for our member districts.

From last year's meeting in Bushnell, area school districts were able to share foreign language classes, industrial arts, and dual credit offerings through Carl Sandburg College. Some courses were offered via interactive compressed video. Hopefully, we can

work together to further expand these offerings for the 2006-07 school year.

If we can help districts make contacts with each other to talk about sharing a course, please let us know. For your dual credit questions, please contact Sherry Berg:

sberg@sandburg.edu
(309) 341-5250
(309) 344-1395 FAX

DISTANCE LEARNING TIPS GLEANED FROM EXPERIENCED SUPERINTENDENTS

1. Distance learning classes should be considered as complementary rather than replacement. Teacher unions would have problems if the classes replaced classroom teachers.
2. Limit student numbers to five or less when you are the receiving class. You might not need a monitor.
3. Offer classes for only junior and senior level students. They are more mature and self-motivated.
4. Use the host school's grading scale.
5. Use a white board rather than a green chalk board since it will project better on the monitor.
6. Elmos and Smart Boards are helpful.
7. There will be things to work out between the districts like textbook costs, how to deliver homework, when to schedule the class and how to handle holidays and snow days. Work out the entire plan long before beginning the class.
8. So far districts have chosen reciprocity and to share costs rather than to charge tuition fees.
9. Monitors are helpful. Some districts use librarians to help monitor classes or they put distance learning equipment in rooms with windows.
10. Distance learning teachers should be trained prior to beginning. CSC offers this complimentary training.
11. It is recommended that the distance learning teacher teach a few classes during the semester at the receiving school site in order to get to know his/her students better.
12. Schedule a night prior to the beginning of the distance learning class when parents and students can meet the teacher and see how the class will be conducted. Test the equipment and connection prior to this meeting.
13. It is better to have three or fewer districts participating in any single class.
14. Consider early bird and after school classes to avoid time scheduling conflicts.
15. One idea is to have bus drivers help deliver homework papers, etc. Also, fax machines

could be used. Also, students can use e-mail to send homework. Also, printers hooked to the Internet can print across distances.

16. WebCT is a great assistant for these types of classes.
17. Keep communication lines open between the district administrators.

USED PC'S AVAILABLE

Carl Sandburg College has available to our K-12 partners the attached list of PCs. All these PCs come with 17" Monitors and are \$40.00 ea.

They will be sold on a first come first served basis without any warranties or support. Also, school districts will need to install their own operating systems using the Microsoft Fresh Start for Computers program.

(<http://www.microsoft.com/education/freshstart/freshstart.asp>)

Please let the college know if you are interested in these PCs for your school district.

EDUNET CONTACT INFORMATION

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