



# Carl Sandburg College

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Issue 8

## 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*

DerbyTech continues forward in fast gear! Williamsfield and Avon can be added to the list of school districts connected to EduNet. Next up is Spoon River. I hope your week is going well. Ok, enough chit chat, forward ho!

### *CARL SANDBURG COLLEGE IS RECOGNIZED FOR EduNet*

Carl Sandburg College recently was notified that it will receive the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators (ICCCA) 2005 Innovation Award. The award will be presented to Tom Schmidt and Samuel Sudhakar in Collinsville on November 17. Tom and Samuel will make a presentation to the other community college administrators after receiving the award. It is the college's contention that EduNet can and should be replicated by other community colleges across the state. We are very proud that the college has received this recognition and are grateful for the support given to EduNet by our partner K-12 districts.

### *YOU ARE INVITED*

Phases One and Two are completed. And Phase Three, the end game, is in progress! The next monthly meeting to review EduNet's construction progress is set for **9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 15**, in the Carl Sandburg College Board Room (Building E). On the agenda: 1) DerbyTech Update; 2) WIU Update; 3) Questions from Districts; 4) Next Steps. All participating and prospective superintendents are welcome to attend and/or send their technology staff. This is a great time to network with other districts.

### *OUR GRATITUDE*

We are very grateful for the community support we have received to be able to construct our EDUNET wireless backbone. A complete list of municipalities and businesses was published in an earlier edition of this newsletter. To that list we can now add Colusa Grain. We salute you!

### *CONGRESS RECEIVES REPORT ON eRATE ABUSES*

The long awaited Congressional report on eRate was finally issued. *eSchool News Online* recently gave an account on the Congressional report: "The FCC crafted an ambitious and well-intentioned program, but it failed to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the eRate program, the Congressional report found. It also faulted the agency for having no performance goals and measures to gauge the impact and management of the funds. The FCC, meanwhile, is working on developing performance standards."

"The subcommittee's two-year investigation cited problems with the eRate program in Puerto Rico, San Francisco, Chicago, and Atlanta ... But not all the findings focused on program abuses. Congressional investigators also shed light of some eRate successes, including a massive, five-year technology upgrade in the School District of Philadelphia financed, in large part, with eRate funds..."

"To help more schools and districts achieve that success, the report makes a number of recommendations, including the development of performance goals and more rigorous oversight and audits by the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Co., which handles day-to-day management of the eRate."

There seems to be an understanding in Congress that eRate is an essential program that has benefited many districts. While changes are coming to how eRate

will be administered, this author believes it will continue into the foreseeable future.

### ***E-RATE INFORMATION***

#### **eRate Timeline**

Please keep in mind the timelines necessary to follow to be in compliance with eRate rules. Most districts are working on the eRate 470 form at this time. Be sure to contact Scott Delawder about what to mark on the form if your district currently is an EduNet partner or if your district plans to join next year.

#### **Form 471**

When it becomes time to submit your 471 form, please contact me for the information you need to report. Carl Sandburg College will put together a 471 packet of information for you.

#### **eRate BEAR**

EduNet school districts should use BEAR as its method of receiving reimbursements for EduNet related expenditures rather than service provider invoices (SPIs). Reimbursement through BEAR is made at the end of the year.

#### **eRate SPIN Number**

Carl Sandburg College's eRate SPIN Number is 143029703.

### ***EduNet CONTACT INFORMATION***

Jim Rich  
EduNet Coordinator  
574 N. Prairie Street  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
hockey@insightbb.com  
309-344-6760 Home  
309-368-5516 Cell