



Carl Sandburg College

September 12, 2005
Issue 5

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

Starting with the next issue of EDUNET News, we will be moving to a listserv format. The idea is that the newsletter will have less chance of being blocked as spam. Be sure to contact me with your EDUNET questions. Forward ho!

DESIGN AND LOGISTICS UPDATE

The next monthly meeting of the design and logistics team is set for **9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 14**, in the Carl Sandburg College Board Room (Building E). 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.

COLLABORATING FOR EDUCATION: A WIN-WIN-WIN SITUATION

Thursday, September 22, 2005
9:00am – 12noon
Carl Sandburg College
Theatre - Room F118

On the agenda:

- EDUNET update – very brief!
- Dual credit overview of both occupational and transfer courses – Sherry Berg and Mark Pfleier
- Distance learning and WebCT demonstration
- Roundtable discussion on the new high school graduation requirements and the possibility of course and teacher sharing among districts – led by Ralph Grimm, West Central Superintendent

This meeting is designed for superintendents, high school principals and counselors. Please RSVP to (309) 341-5231 by September 19th. For more information contact: Jim Rich (309) 368-5516

AREA III LEARNING TECHNOLOGY CENTER WORKSHOPS

Whether you are currently an EDUNET partner or are planning to join next year, it is time to begin preparing your 470 E-Rate form. Scott Delawder of Area III Learning Technology Center will begin his annual series of workshops on E-Rate this fall. We encourage you and/or your representative to attend. Below are the dates and locations for these meetings. The LTC will distribute information about these meetings perhaps as early as this week.

- October 19 (Form 470) and January 18 (Form 471) - E-Rate meetings in Springfield.
- October 20 (Form 470) and January 19 (Form 471) - E-Rate Form meetings in Quincy.
- October 25 (Form 470) and January 24 (Form 471) - E-Rate Form meetings in Peoria.

Exact locations and times can be found at the LTC workshop registration site (<http://trackitpd.org>). For individuals that DO NOT HAVE A TRACK IT PD LOGIN, please follow the steps below:

- Access Track it PD at <http://www.trackitpd.org>.
- Select the Access Request Form link. Complete and submit the Access Request Form.
- Once our office receives the request, we will approve the submission and a Track it PD login account and password will be emailed to you.
- With your new login account and password, log back into Track it PD (<http://www.trackitpd.org>) and register for the training or event you plan to attend.

E-RATE SUPPORT

Jim Rich will be happy to research any questions you might have regarding E-Rate. In addition, we recommend districts contact one of these excellent resources for E-Rate support:

- Glenda Bequette, past ISBE E-Rate Coordinator, 217-557-7323, gbequett@isbe.net
- Rick Reedy, new ISBE E-Rate Coordinator, 217-557-7323, rreedy@isbe.net
- Tom Oseland, E-rate Coordinator, CMS/Illinois Century Network, 217-557-7323, toseland@illinois.net
- Scott Delawder, Network Specialist, Area III Learning Technology Center, 309-680-5800, sdelauder@lth3.k12.il.us
- E-Rate Help Line, 888-203-8100

IS THE FUTURE OF E-RATE IN DOUBT?

Jim Rich posed this question to Dina Morris, an aide in Senator Durbin's Washington D.C. office. She provided the following information.

As our readers are aware, several national stories about E-Rate abuse and waste brought heightened scrutiny of the program. This resulted in a disruption of funding during the summer of 2004 when Congress imposed the "anti-deficiency act." A bill passed by Congress during the fall of 2004 gave E-Rate a one-year exemption while the FCC reviewed the program.

Ms. Morris's research found that the abuses were not so much fraud or theft, but more in the area of ill advised purchases of worthless equipment and services. One report that embarrassed Chicago was that it had storerooms filled with unused equipment purchased with federal dollars. It is the perception in Washington that the FCC investigation has done some good in that there have been far fewer incidents reported of E-Rate abuse since the FCC got involved.

Currently Congress is considering two bills that would permanently exempt a disruption of E-Rate funding during the investigation. Senator Durbin supports the Senate's bill, S241, which has 41 co-sponsors and looks strong. Ms. Morris thought that since the House's version of the bill, HR2533, has only 48 co-sponsors, some "campaigning" on our part would be helpful.

There are certainly few "bad apples," but there are far more of us who sincerely want to do right by the program. Without E-Rate money, most of our west central Illinois school districts wouldn't have had the resources to move into the new technological age as far as we have. While the E-Rate process is convoluted and full of red tape, we all need to speak out now in its support. We can campaign to improve the process once E-Rate funding is assured to continue.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How solid is the EDUNET monthly fee offered to our district?

A. It is locked in for five years. CSC is taking the risk for any unexpected costs. If grants are written, the cost to the district could actually go down ... or additional services could be added.

Q. My district plans to wait a year before joining EDUNET. Would that change our monthly partnership fees, and/or the length of contract?

A. For districts unable to join during the summer of 2005, the five-year agreement would begin from the date both sides sign the contract and the May 9, 2005 fee structure would remain in place and be guaranteed for at least the first four years of the agreement. An adjustment could occur during the fifth year depending on circumstances at that time.

Q. What are the advantages to joining?

A. Several reasons come to mind:

- Reduced cost for some
- Wireless is the future
- Its more than just high speed Internet access – IP based video conferencing; live dual credit courses, WebCT hosting service, Educational Cable Access channel access, Voice over IP services, data bureau services, disaster recovery, e-mail and Web hosting, tech support.
- Support for CSC in this visionary endeavor.

Q. What equipment is provided to set up the EDUNET system and integrate it with our internal network? What will be the costs associated with this equipment?

A. Each district will receive all the basic equipment necessary to establish a working link to its internal network – an upgradeable router, two ports and DerbyTech VPNs. There are no additional costs for this equipment as these are included in the monthly fee.

DERBYTECH OFFER

DerbyTech's CIPAFilter is an exciting and evolving network security appliance, providing a more effective solution for anti-spam, virus protection, filtering, spy-ware blocking, web reporting, bandwidth management and more. CIPAFilter combines unique development, open-source technology, great personal tech support, and a low-cost all-inclusive maintenance program, ensuring less management and better results for any Technology Coordinator.

DerbyTech is offering all school districts that participate in the EDUNET program, a 20% discount for a CIPAFilter unit, as well as \$1100 in bandwidth monitoring and VPN features. Having DerbyTech help manage the firewall and additional services, can aid in identifying issues on the local network,

provided enhanced security, and save the district money on required services.

Contact Anders Johnsson @ 800.24.DERBY ext. 209 or andersj@cipafilter.com for more details.

SCHEDULING VIDEO CONFERENCING USE

In order to schedule events and track usage on the Area III Learning Technology Center's videoconference server, all users (K-12 districts, higher education, ROE offices and other users) will be asked to complete a ***Request to Utilize Videoconference Server*** form. The short request form will be available August 29 at the Area III Learning Technology Center's web site (<http://www.lth3.k12.io.us>). The form will ask for contact information as well as dates and times for videoconference server usage, which includes meetings, classes, workshops, etc. This information will help ensure that no one will be short access when hosting events. Watch for an announcement soon from Cindy Hamblin, Director.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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