



Carl Sandburg College

August 8, 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 continue to review the benefits of dual credit classes. (Don't miss the next issue of *The ENVOY Report*, which also addresses dual credit.) We think dual credit classes 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!

WIU Joins EDUNET

Western Illinois University recently announced that it will join EDUNET. For K-12 school districts this will mean students from any part of CSC district will be able to access third and fourth year and graduate level courses from WIU at any of the member school districts or CSC campuses.

DESIGN AND LOGISTICS UPDATE

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 to send their technology staff.

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) - complete
- Monmouth (water tower) - complete
- Galesburg (CSC) - complete

Last week DerbyTech reached agreements with city councils to install equipment in Sciota, Farmington and Macomb. Representatives will make a presentation to the Warsaw City Council and continues to work with Bushnell. 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 Abingdon, Monmouth, Roseville, West Central (Biggsville and Stronghurst), Galesburg, Yorkwood and United. Knoxville High School is installed but not yet online. Installation is scheduled to begin for WIU this week.

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 August 1 edition..
- 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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