



Carl Sandburg College

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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

Our association with the University of Illinois Knox County Extension Office is already paying dividends. It began broadcasting the first of what we believe will be many programs to come. At 1:02 p.m. each day, Channel 22 is broadcasting public health related fare from the Extension Office. I understand that each show will be changed every two weeks or so.

Speaking of Channel 22, *The Register-Mail* recently included a neat article about this CSC/Knox College/CUSD #205 television station. The title was "CSC's TV-22 Still Growing, Evolving." The article reported that programming is delivered by satellite, DVD and VHS tapes. While the station doesn't have a studio and can't offer live shows, it was reported that the station is ready to go to the next level. In addition to new programs offered by the University of Illinois Extension, programming so far includes the Illinois Channel (a state version of C-SPAN); the NASA Channel; an Illinois Arts program and a bulletin board promoting CSC events. Vice President Sudhakar is quoted as saying: "The programming is going to be much more robust on Channel 22." Live programming, broadcasting athletic events, going digital, adding WIU programs and building a studio are all on the horizon.

Ok, enough advertising. Forward ho!

HAVE POWERPOINT, WILL TRAVEL

If your district is considering joining EduNet beginning July 1, 2006, and would like me to make a short presentation to your Board sometime this Spring, please let me know the date and time you would like me to appear.

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 show** 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. I don't believe anyone who attends will be disappointed.

ERATE FORM 471

If there is anything more anyone needs for their 471 eRate forms, please let me know.

PROJECT SAFEGUARD

Now that the EduNet project is substantially complete and a robust information infrastructure has been laid through West Central Illinois, Carl Sandburg College is exploring ways in which the network can be used to save costs and improve efficiencies in the operations of its K-12 partners.

Specifically, the College is interested exploring the possibility of providing Data Bureau services whereby administrative/payroll/scheduling and other software can be housed at a secure central location providing local access to data at the individual schools and administrative sites.

Software and hardware would be provided by the College as would services such as **disaster data recovery**, backup and security. Districts would have 24/7 access. This program, to be called Project Safeguard, would be maintained by the College for a reasonable subscription fee.

If anything above is something that your district would be interested in exploring, please let this humble editor know. In the meantime, CSC has issued an RFI (Request for Information) to discover what technology is out there.

SOME STUDENTS PREFER TAKING CLASSES ONLINE

Online courses appear to be growing in popularity, at least in some cases. I think we would all agree that a face-to-face class with the teacher in the classroom is more effective than an online class. However, the technology for online classes has improved greatly allowing better interaction between the teacher and his/her students.

According to research by Justin Pope, an AP education writer, at least 2.3 million people took some kind of online course in 2004. He also reported that two-thirds of colleges offering face-to-face courses also offer online courses. Gleaned from the January 16 issue of *eSchool News*:

“At some schools, online courses — originally intended for nontraditional students living far from campus — have proved surprisingly popular with on-campus students. A recent study by South Dakota's Board of Regents found 42 percent of the students enrolled in its distance-education courses weren't so distant: they were located on campus at the university that was hosting the online course.

“Motives range from lifestyle to accommodating a job schedule to getting into high-demand courses. Then there's the question of whether students are well served by taking a course online instead of in-person. Some teachers are wary, saying showing up to class teaches discipline, and that lectures and class discussions are an important part of learning. But online classes aren't necessarily easier. Two-thirds of schools responding to a recent survey by *The Sloan Consortium* agreed that it takes more discipline for students to succeed in an online course than in a face-to-face one.

“It's a little harder to get motivated,” said Washington State senior Joel Gragg, who took two classes online last year (including “the psychology of motivation”). But, he said, lectures can be overrated — he was still able to meet with the professor in person when he had questions — and class discussions are actually better online than in a college classroom, with a diverse group exchanging thoughtful postings.”

MORE PCs AVAILABLE

New Announcement: Carl Sandburg College will make available to our K-12 partners some Pentium 2 and Pentium 3 PCs. All these PCs come with 17" Monitors and are \$40.00 each.

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 Mr. Sudhakar's office know if you are interested in these PCs for your school district.

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