

## EDUNET NEWS

EDUNET, a broadband wireless wide area communication network designed for the purpose of transmitting/receiving data, Internet, audio, and video traffic, is owned and operated by Carl Sandburg College in partnership with the K-12 school districts within its region.

### Message from the Coordinator

This one page newsletter will regularly arrive in your box with updates about Carl Sandburg College's new EDUNET program. It is written for superintendents, but will include information for principals and technology staff. Please forward this on! Because we know that time is a valuable commodity for superintendents, we plan to make this newsletter brief and newsy. Forward ho!

### About the Coordinator

CSC recently contracted Jim Rich, retired director of finance, grants and special programs at Galesburg CUSD #205, to provide assistance with the initiation and operation of EDUNET

Jim will coordinate all contractual services to ensure connectivity and reliability of the network; coordinate scheduling of distance learning classes between the College and the K-12 school districts as well as within the K-12 schools; manage traffic on the network; manage hardware and software related to traffic routing and scheduling; assist school districts with their e-rate applications and reimbursements; work with the state and federal agencies and legislators on e-rate regulations and issues; promote applications on EDUNET; coordinate preparation of grant applications to supplement EDUNET funding; assist the Dean of Community and Extension Services with the coordination of dual credit programming; ensure timely and effective communications take place between and among all EDUNET partners including regional superintendents; and periodically visit all district-wide EDUNET partner locations.

Before serving at District 205, Jim held several positions within the K-12 school system including school principal, dean of students and director of alternative education. Jim holds a B.S in Elementary Education and an M.S and Ed.S. in Educational Administration from Western Illinois University.

### Design and Logistics

DerbyTech is making good progress in building the "backbone" of the EDUNET system. The lack of

rain, while a bane to farmers, has been beneficial for putting up antennas!

Wireless Backbone Towers are already installed with efforts underway to secure the remainder of the key sites. Those already in place are:

- Biggsville (water tower)
- Yorkwood (Twomey)
- Roseville (Grain Elevator)
- Stronghurst (water tower)
- LaHarpe (water tower)
- Abingdon (High School)

Several school districts are "hooked up" and are undergoing 30-day tests. They are West Central (Biggsville and Stronghurst) and United.

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 send representatives to attend this meeting.

### Did You Know?

So far nine school districts have joined EDUNET - Abingdon, West Central, United, Monmouth/Roseville, Knoxville, Avon, Galesburg, Yorkwood and Williamsfield. Several other districts are considering EDUNET at this time.

### E-Rate News

Carl Sandburg College has applied for and became an e-rate eligible provider as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

If a school district has a multi year contract for Internet access with their local telecommunications provider and are not able to cancel that contract, they can use EDUNET for Distance Learning (IP Video), WebCT, ETC-TV and backup (failover) Internet access. They can apply for e-rate discount for the above EDUNET services in October 2005, for FY 2007 starting July 01, 2006.

If a school district can change telecommunications provider, they can do so and file an e-rate amendment to get e-rate discounts as of July 01, 2005 for EDUNET services.

If a school district enjoys free Internet access through their local telecommunications provider, they can keep that service and use EDUNET for Distance Learning - IP Video, WebCT, ETC-TV and backup (failover) Internet access. They can then apply for e-rate discount in October 2005 for FY 2007 starting July 01, 2006 for EDUNET services.

Carl Sandburg College will use the BEAR form as its method of discounting costs for districts. The reimbursements will be made at the end of the year.

Carl Sandburg College in partnership with the Area III Learning Technology Center (LTC) will assist school districts on an individual basis to ensure that they enjoy the maximum e-rate resources available to them.

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