



DLT Awards – North Carolina

2012 Grant Awards

Vidant Medical Center Foundation

\$161,047

North Carolina

Areas Served: Chowan, Edgecombe, Hertford, and Duplin Counties

Contact: Tina Dixon

Telephone: (252) 847-5983

Congressional District: Butterfield, 1st Dist.; Jones, 3rd Dist.; and McIntyre, 7th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to deploy video telemedicine equipment to four rural sites in the Northeastern counties of North Carolina in a project sponsored by Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation. Partnering with University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, the Pitt Memorial will serve as the flagship support hospital to provide one-on-one physician consultation from its doctors and medical staff to patients in the more rural locations of hospitals in Duplin County, Hertford County, and Edgecombe County. The connection will also be used to conduct medical training for the more rural practitioners. These communities face many challenges including difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified medical and nursing specialists, and - in general - the ability to safely manage critically ill patients with the limited resources of their rural location. By way of the telemedical equipment, its deployment and use, the grant will improve all of these prospects.

Ocracoke Health Center, Inc.

\$358,967

North Carolina

Areas Served: Dare and Hyde Counties

Contact: Cheryl Balance

Telephone: (910) 592-8716

Congressional District: Jones, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to help purchase clinical presence systems (cart-based video conferencing units specialized for medical practice) that will allow for 12 simultaneous connections with high definition video. The project will also acquire peripheral technology such as digital stethoscopes for exams and laptops used to access and input patient records. The grant will assist the hub sites in acquiring a multipoint bridge and video communications server, which will be at the center of the video network and support all infrastructure and connection management among end points. This will create video end points at Manteo, Kitty Hawk, Frisco, Engelhard, Hatteras, Swan Quarter, and Ocracoke.



2011 Grant Awards

East Carolina University

\$392,748

North Carolina

Areas Served: Chowan, Jackson, Pasquotank, and Sampson Counties

Contact: Dr. Robert Todd Watkins

Telephone: (252) 737-7015

Congressional District: Butterfield, 1st Dist.; McIntyre, 7th Dist.; and Shuler, 11th Dist.

The East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine is expanding their rural residency program by implementing a telemedicine system which will link their dental program with clinics in Eastern North Carolina. USDA Rural Development will provide Distance Learning and Telemedicine funds to enable the four rural participating dental clinics and their hub sites to purchase video conferencing systems. Ross Hall, their hub site in Greenville, will deploy the necessary control equipment, such as video management server, video control server, and content server, so that dental students, instructors, dental assistants, and physicians can all connect and teleconference in any number of variations. The addition of the telemedicine to the residency program will be a welcome addition toward improving oral health care to the most underserved counties in rural North Carolina. East Carolina will match grant funds with \$200,725 of local funding.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

North Carolina

\$81,324

Areas Served: Chatham and Macon Counties

Contact: Michael Young

Telephone: (919) 357-5626

Congressional District: Ellmers, 2nd Dist.; Price, 4th Dist.; and Shuler, 11th Dist.

With funding assistance from USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program the University of North Carolina will expand the statewide distance learning system of the UNC Cancer Network into two rural hospitals. This will be helpful in a number of ways; for physician-to-physician support in oncology, for patient-centric cancer awareness and educational programs and presentation, and to bring the rural doctors into teleconference at the statewide tumor boards. Chatham Hospital in Central North Carolina and Angel Medical Center in Western North Carolina will be linked to enable rural doctors to regularly consult with physicians at UNC regarding cancer treatment and care. The link will also further promote UNC's cancer survivorship support group and cancer transitions program for patients and their families. The University will match federal grant funds with \$42,000 of local funding.



Easter Seals UCP North Carolina & Virginia, Inc.

North Carolina

\$251,235

Areas Served: Alamance, Alleghany, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Franklin, Granville, Hamett, Lee, Nash, Pamlico, Sampson, Surry, and Wilkes Counties

Contact: Tony Real

Telephone: (919) 865-8622

Congressional District: Butterfield, 1st Dist.; Ellmers, 2nd Dist.; Jones, 3rd Dist.; Foxx, 5th Dist.; Coble, 6th Dist.; Kissell, 8th Dist.; McHenry, 10th Dist.; and Miller, 13th Dist.

Easter Seals UCP is an organization which assists people managing disabilities and mental health challenges. Their Raleigh office will serve as hub for a video conferencing telehealth outreach project connecting 15 end-user sites in 14 North Carolina counties. The USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program will fund desktop video conferencing systems and necessary hub equipment to make this system possible. Experts in mental health and developmental disabilities at the Raleigh office will be able to connect with clinicians located at rural mental health clinics throughout this large geographic area for face-to-face one-on-one sessions in consultation and training that will increase the effectiveness of the organization and their mission. It will also facilitate diagnostic screening, treatment planning, complex case review and care coordination. Easter Seals UCP will match federal grant funds with \$125,870 of local funding.

James Sprunt Community College

\$192,870

North Carolina

Areas Served: Duplin County

Contact: Robert Turner

Telephone: (910) 296-2416

Congressional District: McIntyre, 7th Dist.

James Sprunt Community College and the Duplin County Schools will partner in this project to bring college-level and Advanced Placement courses to high school students in Duplin County. The College will use both its main campus and the West Park Business Center to link with five high schools in a distance learning system funded by the USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. Instructors at the high school will be using media carts equipped with video conferencing units, laptops and document cameras, maximizing their connection to their instructor counterparts at the community college, who will also have video conferencing equipment. The project will not only use more effective methods of delivering college courses to high schools, but will also broaden the College's Continuing Education program for delivering industry training. The program will benefit staff and faculty, who currently have to



travel to various, sometimes remote, training sites for professional development courses. The community college will match federal grant funds with \$75,000 of local funding..

Sampson Regional Medical Center, Inc.

\$169,852

North Carolina

Areas Served: Sampson County

Contact: David Masterson

Telephone: (910) 592-8716

Congressional District: McIntyre, 7th Dist.

USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program funds will assist the Sampson Regional Medical Center, a rural hospital in Southeastern North Carolina, in purchasing patient monitoring devices and related peripheral equipment that will connect to four metropolitan hub hospitals in Raleigh, Fayetteville, Chapel Hill and Wilmington. Sampson will be replacing its patient monitoring systems for ones that have more features and connectivity. Capable of standards-based medical imaging and accepting up to four tertiary hospital connections the monitors will connect to patients in Sampson's emergency department, telemetry unit and ICU. Vital signs and other real time data collected from those units will be transmitted to specialists in cardiology, neurology, and pulmonology at the four hub hospitals. The new monitors are useful in other hospital services, including surgical, recovery room, pediatrics and obstetrics/delivery. This distribution of care works well for both the rural and the urban hospital as patients who would otherwise be transported to over-crowded and distance medical centers can remain at their nearby hospital for monitoring and care. Sampson will match federal grant funds with \$169,853 of local funding.

Mission Healthcare Foundation, Inc.

\$419,351

North Carolina

Areas Served: Cherokee, Macon, Mitchell, Swain, and Transylvania Counties

Contact: Bruce Thorsen

Telephone: (828) 213-1020

Congressional District: McHenry, 10th Dist. and Shuler, 11th Dist.

With the assistance of USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program Mission Healthcare will place mobile robotic units into six rural hospitals in the mountain communities of Western North Carolina in a telemedicine program to extend Mission Hospital's Telestroke and telepsychiatry services. These remote presence endpoint devices can transmit video images and medical information back and forth from remote site to hub site. Western North Carolina is in the "Stroke Belt," and each end-user site is in a medically underserved area. Regarding mental health issues, access in this area to a



psychiatrist is non-existent, and often rural emergency rooms are not prepared to deal with critical mental health issues. Mission hospital has over 750 physicians representing most specialties and sub-specialties. The mobile robotic device enables physicians from a distance to directly control and ambulate the device through any clinical process as though they were actually present at the end-user site. Laptops will be used at the hub site for the physician to control the movements and interact with the distant patient medical staff at the rural location. Video monitors on the robot unit will be used for consultation with the physician or psychiatrist. Mission Healthcare will match federal grant funds with \$419,352 of local funding.



DLT Awards – North Carolina

2010 Grant Awards

Graham Children's Health Service of Toe River

\$264,000

North Carolina

Counties: Mitchell and Yancey

Contact: Mrs. Heather Norris Hockaday, (828) 682-7899

McHenry, 10th Dist. and Shuler, 11th Dist.

RUS funds will be used to fund a school-based tele-health program for school age children in Yancey and Mitchell County in western North Carolina. *My Health-e-Schools* project will build upon the network of school-based health providers, nurses, teachers and administrators to provide primary health care, mental health care and nutritional counseling. Lead by a professional medical staff, enhanced by new digital exam equipment and linked together with video teleconferencing technology the project will address student's health problems on site at 11 public schools. The added benefits of this include increasing classroom attendance for students, and reducing the need for parents to take their children to the doctors for basic health care.



DLT Awards - North Carolina

2006 Grant Awards

Beaufort County Schools

Washington, NC

\$84,066

Areas Served: Beaufort

Contact: Mr. Mark E. Mehlich

Telephone: 252-946-4086

Fax: 252-946-4793

Congressional District: NC-01, 03

Rural Development funds will be used to add additional distance learning classrooms in the county's high schools and at Beaufort Community College and also upgrade the equipment at an existing site to support College Academy programming.

Craven County Health Department

New Bern, NC

\$50,370

Areas Served: Craven

Contact: Mrs. Michelle D. Dismuke

Telephone: 252-636-4930

Fax: 252-636-5301

Congressional District: NC-01, 03

Rural Development funds will be used to initiate a Telehealth-Telemonitoring program in rural North Carolina. The agency will utilize HomMed technology that will initially monitor each participating patient's vital signs, weight, and oxygen level on a daily basis. The system will be expanded in the future to allow diabetic patients to download blood sugar readings to a central station.

Mount Olive College

Mount Olive, NC

\$61,494

Areas Served: Beaufort, Pitt, Wayne

Contact: Dr. Carol G. Carrere

Telephone: 919-658-7771

Fax: 919-658-7633

Congressional District: NC-01, 03

Rural Development funds will be used for distance learning classroom technology and acquisition of instructional programming to serve rural medical professionals and the



rural residents of North Carolina through live broadcasts of National Telehealth Virtual Grand Rounds and related distance learning telehealth educational services.

2005 Grant Awards:

Beaufort County Schools

Washington, NC

\$114,211

Areas Served: Beaufort County

Contact: Mark Mehlich

Telephone: 252-946-4086

Fax: 252-946-4793

Congressional District: NC-01, NC-03

The school system will establish interactive video conferencing at the county's three high schools where students can participate in advanced high school classes from all three locations. Over 2,000 students will benefit from the project.

2004 Grant Awards

Warren County Schools - Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium

Warrenton, North Carolina

\$445,143

Area(s) served: Weldon City, NC and Warren, Northampton, Hertford, and Bertie Counties

Contact: Susan Brown, 919-789-0052; Fax: 252-257-5357

Congressional District(s): NC-01

The Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium will install a video-conferencing system in seven schools and two community colleges. Each school will function as a hub allowing specially trained certified teachers in each of the classrooms to initiate needed courses. Schools will also be able to receive college courses. Up to 960 students per year will have access to quality instruction delivered from remote sites.



2003 Grant Awards

The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television; Research Triangle Park, NC

\$345,733

Area(s) Served: Counties of Bladen, Columbus, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, and Transylvania

Contact: Tom Howe (919) 549-7158; Fax: (919) 549-7201

Congressional District(s): Applicant 4th, Project 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 11th

The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television (UNC-TV) will utilize RUS grant funds to collaborate with North Carolina Cooperative Extension (NCCE) and others to reach residents in 20 pilot counties, engaging them in interactive communication and multifaceted educational health experiences to improve family and community well-being. A unique feature of the project is that it brings the new educational opportunities of digital television and the community involvement and interactivity of cooperative extension to bear on two of North Carolina's most severe problems of poor health and the lack of adequate, affordable technology in the state's rural areas.

2000 Awards:

ALBEMARLE LEARNING CENTER, Edenton, North Carolina

\$100,402 Grant

Chowan, Gates and Perquimans Counties

Contact: Mr. J. Cameron Boyce, (252) 482-5769; FAX: (252) 482-5804

1st and 3rd Congressional Districts

Albemarle Learning Center, is a non-profit educational center, located on an 80-acre farm in rural Chowan County. Its mission is to serve the farm communities of a three-County, 781-square mile area of eastern North Carolina (Chowan, Gates and Perquimans). In partnership with three local County school systems, seven community agencies, and two Universities, the Center is proposing a distance learning project to serve the needs of adults and youths residing in its own County and the two adjacent Counties. The first goal of the project is to upgrade the quality of math, science, language arts and social studies instruction for students (K-12) enrolled in the three County public school systems. The second goal is to improve access for adults residing in the same target area to critical information and classes in the area of public health, agriculture, and social services. The project is needed because public school students in the tri-County area are performing significantly below state and national averages in all major subject areas. Through this project, the Albemarle Learning Center will become a member of the 174 member North Carolina Information Highway, the major education network for broad-band fiber optic connectivity in the state. The partnering school systems (both the three in the tri-County



service area and the three in other areas) and the two partnering universities already are members and are equipped with both T-1 (fiber optic) and internet connectivity.

GATES COUNTY SCHOOLS, Shawboro, North Carolina

\$350,000 Grant

Area(s) served: Currituck, Gates, Halifax and Hyde Counties

Contact: Ms. Jeanne Meiggs, (252) 232-3035; FAX: (252) 232-2757

1st, 2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts

The technology infrastructure to be provided by this distance learning project will expand the statewide North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) network in northeastern North Carolina overlaying a point-to-multipoint WAN which incorporates voice, video and data. This project will deliver a set of pathways for poor, rural largely minority, at-risk high school students to close the performance gap between themselves and non-minority students. The infrastructure for this venture will include the NCIH site at each of the six high schools involved. These two-way audio/video sites are networked throughout the state linking schools, universities, courts and local government to each other through T1 lines. It will also make available a network covering a 16 County area which makes internet access and the benefits of online re-training available for adults in sparsely populated areas ranging from the Ocracoke barrier islands to the Halifax EZ/EC zone which was recently ravaged by Hurricane Floyd. This project will greatly benefit people who lost their livelihoods during the 1999 hurricane season.

1999 Award:

North Carolina Technological Development Authority, Inc, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

\$289,453 Grant

Counties Served: Brunswick, Carteret, Cherokee, Columbus, Durham, Edgecomb, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Hertford, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mecklinburg, New Hanover, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Tyrrell, Vance and Watauga

Contact Person: Mr. John Ciannemea, (919) 990-8550: Fax (919) 558-0156

North Carolina Technological Development Authority, Inc will use funds to expand an existing distance learning network to include nine additional communities and four mobile units that can be temporarily located in specific areas of need. Funds will also be used to increase the capabilities of the central hub to better serve the rural community.



1998 Awards:

Beaufort County Community College

\$110,198 Grant

Location: Washington, North Carolina

Area(s) served: Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington

Contact Almeta A. Woolard

Telephone Number: (252) 946-6194x271

Fax Number: (252) 946-9575

Congressional District: 3rd.

Beaufort County Community College (BCCC) plans to construct a distance learning network to help this exceptionally rural, economically disadvantaged area with educational opportunities to serve approximately 66,000 rural residents in a four county area. Many of the residents have to travel great distances to attend classes on campus. Project PLACE will permit BCCC to provide Internet telecourses and video cassette telecourses through RUS funding the necessary platform equipment to support those courses. Computers will be placed in three rural libraries and create a distance learning lab at the college library.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

\$299,244 Grant

Location: Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Area(s) served: Alleghany, Anson, Beaufort, Halifax, Pasquotank; Robeson, Wilson, and Perquimans

Contact Tim Stephens

Telephone Number: (919) 966-9135

Fax Number: (910) 966-9789

Congressional District: 4th.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill proposes to expand the existing North Carolina Public Health Training and Information Network to include six new sites in rural North Carolina. The project will benefit 259,615 residents in the eight county area of North Carolina. RUS funding will be used to provide distance-based educational programs, instruction, and technical assistance from the School of Public Health (SPH) to public health professionals located in the end user communities. Each end user site will be encouraged to use the system for communications, consultation and telemedicine when distance learning courses are not scheduled to maximize the use of the system. The hub for the project is SPH's Center for Distance Learning (CDL) and the six local health departments will serve as end user sites. CDL, in a joint initiative with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and local health departments, is also the hub site for the Public Health Training and Information Network.



1997 Awards:

Mountain Area Health Education Center, Inc.

Award: \$70,305 Grant / \$ 42,795 Loan

Total: \$113,100

Location: Asheville, North Carolina

Area(s) Served: Counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, and Swain

Contact Person: David Blanchard-Reid

Telephone Number: 704-257-4439

FAX Number: 704-258-2099

Mountain Area Health Education Center, Inc. (MAHEC), in cooperation with Murphy Medical Center, Harris Regional Hospital, Swain County Hospital, and the Mission+St. Joseph's Health System, will expand the existing Western North Carolina HealthLink (WNCHL) interactive video network into two locations in rural underserved areas. The Murphy Medical Center, located in Cherokee County in the extreme western part of the state, serves approximately 37,000 rural residents in Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties. The Swain County Hospital, as part of the newly formed Westcare Health System serves approximately 11,500 rural residents in Swain County. These four counties are among the most isolated mountain counties in North Carolina. They face ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining an adequate health provide workforce. The primary purpose of this project is to provide distance education in the form of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing education (CE) for rural health and mental health professionals. The network will also be used for administrative and committee meetings that facilitate community collaboration to address locally identified health needs and as an additional way for health and mental health agencies and hospitals in the region to network together to address regional health care delivery issues. The technological design and selected equipment specifications also allow for future telemedicine applications.

North Carolina Technological Development Authority, Inc. (TDA)

Amount: \$286,026 Grant

Location: Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Area(s) Served: Counties of Columbus, Halifax, Haywood, Perquimans and Tyrrell

Contact Person: Ms. Catherine Reilly

Telephone Number: (919) 990-8558

FAX Number: (919) 558-0156

The North Carolina Technological Development Authority, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation with a mission to create jobs and wealth throughout the state of North Carolina by supporting the formation and success of entrepreneurial, innovation-oriented business ventures. The TDA administers programs that foster business formation and incubation, encourage entrepreneurship, increase capital formation and promote commercialization of technological innovations. The TDA plans to help create jobs in the



state with the creation of a distance learning project called the Entrepreneurial Education Network, (EEN). The EEN will provide interactive courses, seminars and training to small business managers and entrepreneurs in the state. The RUS grant award will provide EEN with the funding to link five remote sites, the Tyrrell County Community Development Corporation, the Perquimans 2020 Vision Coalition, Inc., the McPherson Business Complex, the Small Business and Industry Center and the Business Development Center, with the hub site, the First Flight Venture Center.

The EEN will partner with two other organizations, the Council for Entrepreneurial Development and the Small Business and Technology Development to assist in the project. The TDA estimates a total number of 12,900 rural participants will directly benefit from the distance learning project. In addition many rural residents will indirectly benefit from the project through new employment opportunities and increased economic opportunities. Halifax county includes two census tracts which are included in the Halifax, Edgecombe and Wilson Enterprise Community. The county which was not chosen as an EZ/EC, but was awarded for its efforts with the title of Champion Community, was the Columbus county.

Piedmont Community College

Award: \$62,062 Grant / \$32,049 Loan

Total: \$94,111

Location: Roxboro, North Carolina

Area(s) Served: Counties of Caswell and Person

Contact Person: Louise Mathews

Telephone Number: 910-599-1181

FAX Number: 910-597-3817

Piedmont Community College (PCC) will create an interactive video network linking two college campuses in order to increase educational opportunities for the community college, high school and adult literacy students, as well as rural residents. PCC seeks to extend connectivity in the two exceptionally rural counties in the north central region of North Carolina that it serves: Caswell and Person Counties. Caswell County faces many educational challenges including difficulties in attracting and retaining teachers due to minimum pay scales, and a high percentage of high school dropouts. This project will expand Internet capability and begin a videoconferencing network in one of the counties where public Internet access is exceptionally limited and in which videoconferencing capability does not exist. It will increase videoconferencing capability in an economic growth area in which videoconferencing is currently limited to one site. The project will encourage local telecommunications carriers to extend infrastructure and service to an exceptionally rural, economically challenged region, thereby contributing to economic growth as well as educational equity.



University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Award: \$ 261,295 Grant

Location: Wilmington, North Carolina

Area(s) Served: Counties of Bladen, Brunswick, and Duplin

Contact Person: Pamela Whitlock

Telephone Number: 910-962-3167

FAX Number: 910-962-7249

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, a public university, has created a consortium whose goal is to open up a rural and deprived region of southeastern North Carolina to the virtual global society. The Bladen Community College, the Brunswick Community College, and the James Sprunt Community College located in three of the state's most rural communities, Bladen, Brunswick, and Duplin Counties, seeks RUS funds to connect to the North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH), which will provide global access for state agencies everywhere and accommodate every known interconnective video and data platform. Global access will permit local needs for education, telemedicine, and industrial training to be met into the next millennium. Through extension education program, university courses will be available to community colleges and high schools. The NCIH backbone will allow medical services to be delivered to areas far removed from local hospitals, and economic opportunities will be enhanced for local industrial employees and other residents. Each site will engage in distance learning education, telemedicine, industrial training, and economic development activities with statewide and international programming partners through the use of video conferencing and high speed data applications.

1996 Grant Award:

Watauga County Board of Education

\$188,532

Boone, North Carolina

Contact Person: Sally Anderson

Phone Number: 704-264-7190

FAX Number: 704-264-7196

Watauga County's rural isolation and economic disadvantages, compounded with lack of access to advanced telecommunications technologies, have left most of the rural students without a model for successful personal use of the wealth of information available beyond the classroom's boundaries. Therefore, the Watauga County Board of Education's Technology Advisory Committee developed an educational wide-area network with videoconferencing capabilities and instructional programming assistance to resolve the rural isolation problems and make technology opportunities available. An RUS grant awarded to the Watauga County Board of Education project "Watauga LEARNS!" will be used to acquire the advanced telecommunications and computer network infrastructure needed to provide county-wide connectivity among nine schools and the schools county



office. The project is expected to provide educators, students, parents, and other community members with a multi-modal distance learning system. In addition to video conferencing, this project plans to integrate effective use of Internet resources, e-mail communication, software sharing, and data exchange to build a comprehensive on-line instructional community.

1993 Grant Award:

University of North Carolina at Wilmington Division for Public Service

RUS will fund two-way interactive video equipment to create six distance learning sites in rural areas of Brunswick, Columbus and Pender counties.