



## **DLT Awards – Arkansas**

### ***2012 Grant Awards***

#### **Arkansas State University – Newport**

\$460,398

Arkansas

Areas Served: Jackson County

Recipient Contact: Dr. Sandra Massey

Telephone: (870) 512-7841

Congressional District: Crawford, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to finance end user video equipment and control equipment that will allow ASU-Newport to centrally manage all of the video systems provided through this project, including scheduling and content management/streaming. Arkansas State University -Newport plans to connect their main campus with two technical centers and eight local schools in an interactive partnership. This project will address the diverse needs of the Jackson county learning communities, which will help create a more skilled competitive workforce, and assist in eliminating the disparity between the rural disadvantaged and isolated residents and those in more populated and affluent areas. Jackson County, Arkansas is one of the USDA Strike-Force counties.

#### **Arkansas Department of Information Systems**

\$500,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: All 75 Counties

Contact: Don Louis McDaniel

Telephone: (501) 682-5027

Congressional District: Crawford, 1st Dist.; Griffin, 2nd Dist.; Womack, 3rd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase equipment that will be placed in the centralized data center, then configured and integrated so as to bring about a transition to an overall system update. The devices will enable the Information Systems Department to locally manage and expand services on the existing state video network. The effect of these updates will include a reduction in the total cost to the schools and agencies currently using the network for distance learning and other public services and will allow expansion of the capacity and services across the state for current and future video conferencing needs. Arkansas is categorized by USDA as a "Strike Force 1" state, as determined by persistent poverty.



## ***2011 Grant Awards***

### **White River Health System, Inc.**

Arkansas

Amount: \$56,608

Areas Served: Stone

Contact: Angela Dugger

Telephone: (870) 262-1927

Congressional District: Crawford, 1st Dist.

Stone County Medical Center is a critical access hospital located in the rugged Ozark Mountains of North Central Arkansas. There are no specialists at Stone County, so with the help of USDA Rural Development funding this telemedicine project will deploy two desktop video teleconferencing units in the emergency and nursing departments. This will open up direct access to specialists at the larger White River Medical Center and also to medical personnel and training resources at the University of Arkansas Medical Center. Treating patients of stroke, cardiac or other trauma-related emergencies is of special concern to medical staff at Stone County, and the new system will provide an essential link for consultation, diagnostic review, treatment strategies, and a limitless venue of specialized training to enhance the quality of care provided at the rural hospital. White River will match grant funds with \$17,039 of local funding.

## ***2010 Grant Awards***

### **University of Arkansas Community College at Hope**

\$370,860

Arkansas

Areas Served: Hemp, Hempstead, Lafayette, Miller, Nevada, and Pike Counties

Contact: Jennifer Methvin

Telephone: (870) 722-8202

Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will install video conferencing equipment using existing infrastructure to provide resources to help reduce the educational disparity that exists between the rural schools and the urban schools in Southwest Arkansas. Students will be given access to advanced subject matters, dual enrollment, and interaction with other schools. Faculty will receive collaborative style professional development and training.

### **Arkansas School for Mathematics, Science and the Arts**

\$335,373

Arkansas and Arizona

Areas Served: Pinal and Gila Counties



Contact: Chris M. Robbins  
Telephone: 501-622-5130  
Congressional District: Gasar, 1st Dist.; Flake, 6th Dist; Grijalva, 7th Dist.

*Note: The applicant is an Arkansas organization. The end users of this project are in Arizona. See the Arizona DLT Award Summaries for more information on this project.*

## **2009 Grant Awards**

### **Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas**

\$ 87,294

Arkansas

Areas Served: Sevier, Howard, and Little River Counties

Contact: Dr. Frank Adams

Telephone: 870-584-4471

Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will upgrade existing interactive video classrooms, and create an online learning laboratory, allowing more students to gain college level courses without having to relocate. The expanded distance learning facilities will carry a special component of nursing and emergency medical technician training to address the shortage of critical health professionals in rural Southwestern Arkansas.

### **Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts #1**

\$500,000

Arkansas and Texas

Areas Served: St. Francis, Bowie, Cass, Hopkins, Kaufman, Lamar, Matagorda, Morris, and Titus Counties

Contact: Dr. Janet Hugo

Telephone: 501-622-5130

Congressional District: Hall 4th Dist. (TX); Hensarling, 5th Dist (TX); Paul, 14th Dist. (TX); Berry, 1st Dist. (AR)

This project will fund an expansion of an existing videoconferencing distance learning system to 20 K-12 school sites, mostly in Texas, with an emphasis on deaf education and other special needs. Along with the deaf education component, services will include enhanced course offerings, adult learning and outreach/counseling to parents.

### **Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts #2**

\$500,000

Arkansas and Texas



Areas Served: St. Francis, Bowie, Cass, Hopkins, Kaufman, Lamar, Matagorda, Morris, and Titus Counties

Contact: Dr. Janet Hugo

Telephone: 501-622-5130

Congressional District: Hall 4th Dist. (TX); Hensarling, 5th Dist (TX); Paul, 14th Dist. (TX); Berry, 1st Dist. (AR)

This project will fund an expansion of an existing videoconferencing distance learning system to 20 K-12 school sites, mostly in Texas, with an emphasis on deaf education and other special needs. Along with the deaf education component, services will include enhanced course offerings, adult learning and outreach/counseling to parents.

### **Baptist Health (1)**

Arkansas

\$309,752

Areas Served: Arkansas, Clay, Randolph, Johnson, and Desha Counties

Contact: Russell D. Harrington, Jr.

Telephone: 501-202-654

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.; Boozman, 3rd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will fund a critical care medical network connecting 6 rural medical centers and a major hospital hub site at Little Rock. It will use patient monitoring equipment linked to clinical workstations.

### **Baptist Health (2)**

Arkansas

\$295,357

Areas Served: Chicot, Van Buren, Phillips, Bradley, Pulaski (HUB), Independence, and Mississippi Counties

Contact: Russell D. Harrington, Jr.

Telephone: 501-202-654

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.; Boozman, 3rd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will fund a critical care medical network connecting 6 rural medical centers and a major hospital hub site at Little Rock. It will use patient monitoring equipment linked to clinical workstations.

### **Crossett Health Foundation d/b/a APMC Family Home Health**

\$121,215

Arkansas

Areas Served: Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Drew, and Union Counties

Contact: Russ D. Sword

Telephone: 870-364-1295

Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist.



This project will fund tele-monitoring home units for home health patients and accompanying laptops for clinical staff which will allow the providers to monitor more patients with greater efficiency, and provide better care for the rural patients within the 5-county area they serve.

### **Sparks Regional Medical Center**

\$467,287

Arkansas and Oklahoma

Areas Served: Sebastian, Polk, Johnson, Logan, Yell, Le Flore, Sequoyah, Adair, Haskell, and Latimer Counties

Contact: Dennis Bauer

Telephone: 479-441-5101

Congressional District: Snyder, 2nd Dist. (AR); Boozman, 3rd Dist. (AR); Ross, 4th Dist. (AR); and Boren, 2nd Dist.

This project will fund clinical workstations, video conferencing and desktop equipment which will link 10 county hospitals across the Arkansas/Oklahoma borderlands to improve and expand access to care for medically underserved chronic disease patients.

## ***2008 Grant Awards***

### **Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts**

\$405,142

Arkansas

Areas Served: Faulkner, Boone, Franklin, Sebastian, Pope, Garland, Grant, and Nevada Counties

Contact: Chris M. Robbins

Telephone: (501) 622-5130

Congressional District: Snyder, 2nd Dist.; Boozman, 3rd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

Rural Development grant funds will be utilized for interactive videoconferencing between the Arkansas School for Mathematics in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and 17 rural schools in Arkansas and Louisiana. The system will enhance education in these rural schools with emphasis on math, literacy, and science. Additional course offerings will be offered to these rural sites and additional remediation services will ensure students are not left behind.

### **Magnolia City Hospital**

\$196,530

Arkansas

Areas Served: Columbia, Nevada, Hempstead, and Ouachita

Contact: Margaret Mayree West

Telephone: (870) 235-3473



Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist

Rural Development grant funding will be used in the telemedicine project to connect 21 end-user sites with the Magnolia City Hospital in Magnolia, Arkansas. The project has two key components which are Point-of-Care Technology and Telmonitoring Home Health Units. All sites will interconnect electronically via telecommunications with laptops that will be used to access and record patient information in the field.

### ***2007 Grant Awards***

#### **Integrated Community Clinics, PA (dba) Community Physicians Group**

Arkansas and Oklahoma

\$350,933

Areas Served: Benton, Adair, Delaware, and Mayes Counties

Contact: George Moudry

Telephone: (479) 524-3141

Congressional District: Boozman, 3rd Dist. (AR); Boren, 2nd Dist. (OK)

The Community Physicians Group operates six clinics in northwestern Arkansas and northeastern Oklahoma. The DLT project will equip these clinics with vital sign monitoring and would purchase mobile ultrasound and radiographic equipment to rotate among the clinics, bringing never-before available diagnostic services to these rural communities.

#### **Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas**

\$66,555

Arkansas

Areas Served: Arkansas and Phillips Counties

Contact: Dr. Steven Murray

Telephone: (870) 338-6474

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.

Phillips Community College will use this grant to replace obsolete distance learning labs on each of their three campuses. The project will offer college level courses and job training courses for rural residents.

#### **Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, Inc.**

\$52,640

Arkansas

Areas Served: Searcy, Van Buren, Madison, and Newton

Contact: Melanie H. Campbell

Telephone: (870) 448-3796



Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.; Snyder, 2nd Dist.; and Boozman, 3rd Dist.

With Rural Development funds the Boston Mountain Rural Health Center will develop a holistic, continuity of care telehealth system called the Rural Access Program. The RAP system will deliver primary, behavioral, prevention, educational and pharmacy access to a four county area.

## ***2006 Grant Awards***

### **Community Medical Center of Izard County**

\$213,184

Arkansas

Areas Served: Izard County

Contact: Genna G. Nave

Telephone: (870) 297-2460

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to provide teleradiology technology and services to rural residents of Izard County. Radiology images will be sent via a computer with a T-1 line to a radiologist at White River Health System in Batesville, AR. This project would benefit over 13,000 residents of Izard County.

### **CrossRidge Community Hospital**

\$118,350

Arkansas

Areas Served: Cross and St. Francis Counties

Contact: Joy Sheppard

Telephone: (870) 208-2117

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to establish an in-home electronic monitoring system for rural home health care patients. The project will install a central monitoring station and 31 monitoring units that will be issued to patients who have been identified as at-risk of repeated hospitalization. The monitoring units will remind patients to take weight, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation readings which will be automatically transmitted to the central station. Ten of the units will utilize a medication reminder component that monitors and reports on medication compliance.

### **Ozark Health Foundation**

\$497,917

Arkansas

Areas Served: Searcy and Van Buren Counties

Contact: Robin R. Corley



Telephone: (501) 745-7004

Congressional District: Snyder, 2nd Dist. and Boozman, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to create a telemedicine/teleradiology network with integrated picture archiving communications system (PACS) and additional communication tools to aid rural physicians and rural residents that will connect and vertically integrate independent health care providers in the area to facilitate the accurate and efficient exchange of information. The system will include the electronic interfacing of a critical access hospital, nursing home, three federally qualified health clinics, five outlying independent primary care clinics, and a specialty clinic with 12 part-time specialists.

### **Piggott Community Hospital**

\$173,650

Arkansas

Areas Served: Clay, Greene, Randolph, Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, and Stoddard Counties

Contact: Dana L. Stone

Telephone: (870) 598-3133

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist. (AR) and Emerson, 8th Dist. (MO)

Rural Development funds will be used to electronically interconnect, via telecommunications, patients and medical professionals in 36 communities in rural Arkansas and Missouri. The telemedicine project is designed as a proactive disease management program designed to utilize state-of-the-art technology to give patients a great role in their own care, allowing clinicians to monitor more patients while permitting them to provide preventative intervention before situations become acute. The project will improve patient care and optimize operation outcomes, improve efficiencies, reduce costs, and satisfy regulatory requirements.

### **St. Edward Mercy Foundation**

\$137,255

Arkansas

Areas Served: Franklin, Logan, Sebastian, and Scott

Contact: Martha E. Pendleton

Telephone: (479) 314-1118

Congressional District: Boozman, 3rd Dist. and Ross, 4th Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase computed radiology technology needed to connect the network's three rural hospitals. This technology will facilitate the immediate electronic transmission of X-rays from distant locations, providing a more comprehensive and timely medical diagnosis for rural patients.



## ***2005 Grant Awards***

### **White River Rural Health Center, Inc.**

\$488,030

Arkansas

Areas Served: Cleburne, Craighead, Cross, Jackson, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, White, and Woodruff Counties

Contact: Dr. Steve Collier

Telephone: 870-347-2534

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist. and Snyder, 2nd Dist.

The project will improve patient care, clinical practice, and health in the project service area through advanced telecommunications equipment. Fifteen end-user sites will include medical and dental clinics, retail pharmacies, and a nursing home. Over 100,000 residents of rural Arkansas will benefit from this project.

### **Ozark Health Foundation**

\$420,505

Arkansas

Areas Served: Van Buren and Searcy Counties

Contact: Pearl McElfish

Telephone: 501-745-7004

Congressional District: Snyder, 2nd Dist. and Boozman, 3rd Dist.

A vertically integrated WAN will tie together pharmacy, radiology, medical orders, patient assessments, and other health information to improve patient care. Participants include a critical access hospital, a nursing home, a home health agency, a therapy services agency, three health clinics, five primary care clinics and a specialty clinic. The project will benefit approximately 24,000 residents in this exceptionally rural area of Arkansas.

## ***2004 Grant Awards***

### **McGehee School District**

\$361,687

Arkansas

Areas Served: Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Lincoln, and Mississippi Counties

Contact: Bobby Ashley

Telephone: (870) 222-3670

Congressional District(s): Berry, 1st Dist. and Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will extend the opportunity for interactive distance learning in 12 rural school districts serving over 9,500 students. DLT funds will be used to help the districts fulfill a need to provide expanded course offerings that are mandated, but not funded by the State, to provide higher educational opportunities to the



students. Grant funds will be used to purchase the interactive distance learning studio equipment.

### **Osceola School District**

\$408,442

Arkansas

Areas served: Columbia, Crittenden, Fulton, Jefferson, Hempstead, Lafayette, Mississippi, Newton, Nevada, Ouachita, Stone, Sharp, and Van Buren Counties

Contact: Milton Washington

Telephone: 870-563-2561

Congressional District(s): Berry, 1st Dist.; Snyder, 2nd Dist.; Boozman, 3rd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

The grant will be used for interactive video equipment, computers and training in 14 school districts in 13 different counties in the state of Arkansas. The schools will utilize T-1 lines that they already have for transmission of the signals. The 6,269 students in the 14 school districts will benefit from the project through the opportunity to participate in new courses and new types of learning using the facilities financed. Faculty members will similarly benefit from the availability of new opportunities for continuing education and professional development. And local residents will be able to use the equipment for adult education, including job training otherwise unavailable.

### **Pocahontas School District**

\$461,521

Arkansas

Areas Served: Saline, Randolph, Izard, Cross, Arkansas, Sharp, Faulkner, Jackson, Woodruff, Independence, Grant, and Lawrence Counties

Contact: Daryl Blaxton

Telephone: 870-892-4573

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.; Snyder, 2nd Dist.; and Ross, 4th Dist.

This project will extend the opportunity for interactive distance learning in 18 rural school districts serving over 13,300 students. DLT funds will be used to help the districts fulfill a need to provide expanded course offerings that are mandated, but not funded by the State, to provide higher educational opportunities to the students. Grant funds will be used to purchase the interactive distance learning studio equipment.

## ***2003 Grant Awards***

### **Arkansas School for Mathematics & Science**

\$425,820

Arkansas



Areas Served: Towns of Bay, Earie, Elaine, Hot Springs, Parkin, Wilson, and Turrell

Contact: Ralph Malone

Telephone: (501) 622-5100

Congressional District(s): Berry, 1st Dist.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics & Science will use RUS grant funds to establish a distance learning network using leased T1 lines within seven school districts and the central hub site at the Arkansas School for Mathematics & Science. The seven school districts involved in this project have formed a consortium with the Arkansas School of Math & Science to improve education in their districts. The project will allow access to expand and enhance instructional programs for 3,422 public school students in underserved communities in Arkansas as well as to provide educational opportunities and training for adults in the communities served.

### **Parkers Chapel School District**

\$354,850

Arkansas

Areas Served: Towns of Carthage, El Dorado, Emmet, Huttig, and Kingsland

Contact: John E. Gross

Telephone: (870) 862-4641

Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist.

Parkers Chapel School District will utilize RUS grant funds to provide distance learning to extremely rural schools within the consortium. The system will ultimately benefit 1,649 students, 156 teachers, and 12 administrators by providing expanded course offerings, higher education opportunities, and professional development. The network will also be available to residents of the communities for job advancement training, health care providers, and businesses.

## ***2002 Grant Award***

### **Barton-Lexa School District / Quad-District Distance Learning Consortium**

\$500,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: Philips, Cross, Chicot, and Arkansas Counties

Contact: Roy Kirkland

Telephone: (870) 572-7294

Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist. and Ross, 4th Dist.

The Barton-Lexa School District will use RUS grant funds for a distance learning project on behalf of the Quad-District Distance Learning Consortium. This



consortium is comprised of four (4) schools districts located in four different counties in eastern Arkansas. State-of-the-art distance learning labs will be installed in three (3) elementary schools, two (2) middle schools and three (3) high schools which will create a network that expand course offerings, increase the number of advanced placement classes and provide professional development training for teachers. The community will benefit from adult education classes such as GED courses as well as the establishment of on-line or multi-site discussion on a variety health and social issues. This project combines existing technology infrastructure such as T-1 lines and local education networks with the self-contained labs that have all the components needed to connect each end user site. The design of these units is compatible with community college, university and state educational networks. The project will benefit 2,941 students and potentially 80,837 rural community residents.

## ***2001 Awards***

### **De Queen Public Schools**

\$500,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: Sevier County

Contact: Bill Blackwood

Telephone: (870) 584-4312

Congressional District: Ross, 4th Dist.

De Queen Public Schools will use RUS grant funds for a distance learning project for the De Queen/Foreman/Ashdown Distance Learning Consortium. This consortium is comprised of three school districts in Arkansas. Eight end user sites are proposed including De Queen High School, De Queen Middle School, De Queen Elementary School, De Queen Primary School, Foreman High School, Foreman Elementary School, Ashdown Middle School, and L.F. Henderson Intermediate School. The focus of this project is to enable the three school districts to network with each other using a compressed video system with delivery via high-speed telecommunications (T1) lines. Equipment to be used includes a video conferencing system with dual monitors, document cameras, and a desktop conferencing unit at each school. Each school will also have multimedia computers installed in distance learning classrooms, libraries, media centers, labs, and regular classrooms to provide online and other technology resources for teachers and students. This project will benefit 2,949 students and 244 staff per year. In addition, 27,600 residents in the immediate communities will be directly impacted.

### **Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative**

\$81,872

Arkansas

Areas Served: Crittenden and Mississippi Counties



Contact: Jim Parrish  
Telephone: (870) 578-5426  
Congressional District: Berry, 1st Dist.

Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative (CRESC) will use RUS grant funds for a distance learning project to enhance learning, education and training opportunities for rural residents. The participating school districts are Crawfordsville, Earle, Osceola, and Turrell. CRESC will provide professional development for teachers in reading and mathematics to increase achievement in lower grades to reduce the area's school drop-out rate. In addition, the network will offer increased course subject diversity for students and increased adult learning opportunities for community members. The project's new distance learning laboratories will allow one teacher to teach a course at all four schools simultaneously. New courses will include advanced placement courses, upper-level courses, and classes taught by teachers in limited supply. This project will help the affected communities achieve objectives of the Arkansas Smart Start Initiative, a program of the Arkansas Department of Education. This is a comprehensive plan to increase student reading and math achievement in the lower elementary school grades, creating a strong foundation for greater academic success in upper grades. Quantitatively, the Arkansas Smart Start Initiative goal is for all children to meet or exceed grade-level requirements in reading and math by Grade 4. The Smart Start Initiative accomplishes this through curriculum-specific teacher training. This project will benefit approximately 3,190 students in these four school districts.

**Helena-West Helena/Forrest City Arkansas Delta Technology Consortium, c/o Helena-West Helena School District**

\$500,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: Phillips and St. Francis Counties

Contact: Mr. Rodney E. Echols

Telephone: (870) 338-4425

Congressional Districts: Berry 1st Dist.

The Helena-West Helena Distance Learning Consortium is comprised of two school districts along the Mississippi River Delta. Helena-West Helena School District will serve as the fiscal agent for the Consortium. Serving as a collaborator of the project, although not a member of the consortium, is Great Rivers Education Cooperative (GREC). The consortium plans to enable six schools in two school districts to network with each other and the GREC to share teacher resources using a compressed video system operating over high speed telecommunications (T1) lines. The project will benefit 2,764 students and 536 staff per year. In addition, 23,059 residents in the immediate communities will be directly impacted.



## **2000 Awards**

### **Arkansas-Mississippi Rural School Consortium c/o Des Arc School District**

\$350,000 Grant

Arkansas

Area(s) Served: Prairie, Woodruff, and Tallahatchie Counties

Contact: Carroll Denton

Telephone: (870) 256-4164

Congressional District: Berry 1st Dist. (AR); Wicker, 1st Dist.; and Thompson, 2nd Dist. (MS)

The Arkansas-Mississippi Rural School Consortium intends to use RUS grant funds for a distance learning project for Responsible Enhancement of Academic Development (Project READING). Project READING will include the three rural school districts of Des Arc School District and Augusta School District in Arkansas and the East Tallahatchie Consolidated School District in Mississippi. The goals of this project are to improve student achievement in reading, reduce the effects of rurality and geographic isolation through technology, enhance the school districts' technology infrastructure for teacher development and academic improvement, and reduce violence and conflict in the school communities. Interactive distance learning classrooms will be installed at each of the three high schools. Desktop conferencing capability will also link these three schools for small-group activities, including periodic training of teacher and student teams. The project will allow individuals and/or small groups to use desktop conferencing and the on-line READING network for sharing ideas, difficulties, and resources. Networked multimedia computers will provide access to the desktop conferencing and the READING network, a closed-access on-line chat box, at secondary schools in each district. This project will benefit the 3,000 students enrolled in these three school districts as well as the approximately 34,000 people living in those three rural counties.

### **Delta Health Education Partnership, c/o Arkansas State University**

\$350,000

Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee

Contact: Dr. Phyllis Skorga,

Telephone: (870) 910-8033

Congressional Districts: Berry, 1st Dist. (AR); Dickey, 4th Dist. (AR); Vitter, 1st Dist. (LA); Jefferson, 2nd Dist. (LA); McCrery, 4th Dist. (LA); Cooksey, 5th Dist. (LA); Baker, 6th Dist. (LA); Thompson, 2nd Dist. (MS); Bryant, 7th Dist. (TN); and Ford, Jr., 9th Dist. (TN)

The Arkansas State University will act as fiscal agent and overseer of the development of a distance learning network called the Delta Health Education Partnership. The partnership consists of Arkansas State University, Arkansas Office of Rural Health, Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing, Louisiana Office of Rural Health,



Louisiana State University at Shreveport, Tennessee Department of Health, and University of Tennessee at Memphis. The partnership plans to use the grant funds, along with matching funds, to extend health education courses to rural family nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician's assistants in the Lower Mississippi River Delta Region. It also plans to provide access to quality education and health care services to health care professionals, students, and rural residents of this same region. The Mississippi Delta area encompasses 140 Counties in the 4 State area. The academic partners will deliver and provide access to health education and health services at the rural end user sites (mostly clinics in rural towns) through a web-based network from the coordinating hub at Arkansas State University. During the first year, the project proposes to benefit 110 students from 6 educational institutions and 50 rural health sites. It is anticipated that rural residents of this region will benefit with better health care diagnostic and preventive medicine that was not previously available to health care professionals who care for them.

### **Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative**

\$203,001

Arkansas

Areas Served: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha and Lincoln Counties

Contact: Bruce Terry

Telephone: (870) 367-6848

Congressional Districts: Berry 1st Dist. and Dickey, 4th Dist.

The Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (SEARK) submitted this project on behalf of the Arkansas City, Crossett, Dermott, Eudora, Fountain Hill, Gillet, Gould, Grady, Wilmot, Hermitage, Lakeside and Rison School Districts, located in the Mississippi Delta. The goal of this project is to increase economic prosperity in southern Arkansas by providing professional development courses, college preparatory classes and lifelong learning opportunities. Approximately 150 students, 120 teachers and many community members will benefit from this project each semester. A compressed, interactive video system will be installed in each school district that will be used in conjunction with existing network infrastructure to provide distance learning opportunities to the twelve rural school districts. In addition, the school districts will benefit from the educational support and expertise that SEARK can provide thorough its service group of 21 total school districts.

### **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

\$350,000

Arkansas

Area(s) served: Jefferson, Cross, and Chicott Counties

Contact: Dr. Jacquelyn McCray

Telephone: (870) 543-8130

Congressional Districts: Berry 1st Dist. and Dickey, 4th Dist.



The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), a historically Black College/University, is the lead institution and fiscal agent for this project which includes the following school districts: Altheimer Unified School District, Lakeside School District, and Parkin School District. UAPB proposes to use RUS grant funds to install a distance learning classroom at each of the three high schools, equipping them to participate in shared instruction and in regionally or nationally broadcast network. To supplement that instruction, multimedia computer workstations with printers will be installed in some classrooms to allow for independent and small-group use of on-line resources at the three high schools. Students will have access to high-quality instruction in challenging upper-division coursework provided by subject matter certified teachers by way of a local, state and national distance learning networks. Adults in the three target communities will have access to for-credit college coursework via interactive classroom distance learning technologies. Teachers in the UAPB Distance Learning Consortium will have participated in professional development via the UAPB distance learning network. This project will serve 11,220 students and rural residents.

### **Cossatot Technical College**

\$234,977

Arkansas

Areas served: Howard, Little River, and Sevier Counties

Contact: Mr. Frank G. Adams

Telephone: (870) 584-4471

Congressional District: Dickey, 4th Dist.

Cossatot Technical College proposes to connect three (3) end-user sites located in Ashdown, De Queen and Nashville by way of interactive classrooms using compressed video. This will make university courses available in both baccalaureate and graduate study programs and delivering nursing and medical programs to area health care professionals and emergency medical personnel. In addition to courses offered by Cossatot Technical College in degree programs and continuing education courses, Southern Arkansas University and Texas A and M have indicated an interest in establishing an interactive video to their courses. It is estimated that the college will serve between 300 and 400 new students each year in both credit and non-credit formats. More than 3,000 individuals will have the opportunity to attend college and to complete their educational goals.

### **1999 Awards**

#### **Arkansas-Mississippi River Delta School Partnership, c/o Brinkley Public Schools**

\$350,000

Arkansas



Areas Served: Monroe, Phillips, and St. Francis Counties  
Contact: Joe C. Williams  
Telephone: (870) 734-5000

The Arkansas-Mississippi River Delta School Partnership is comprised of four school districts; Brinkley, Elaine, Hughes, and Lake View, with four end user sites. The districts will connect with the Great Rivers Educational Cooperative. The project will benefit approximately 1,350 students, 240 staff and 7,416 residents. The four districts will not only share their resources, but they will also benefit from the faculty and expertise of the four districts involved in the Arkansas Delta Consortium, a 1998 grant recipient. Multimedia computers will be installed in distance learning classrooms, libraries, media centers, labs and regular classrooms at the four end user sites to provide on line technology resources for staff and students taking the classes via distance learning. Elaine and Lake View are Champion Communities. Hughes is part of an Enterprise Community.

**East Arkansas Delta Consortium, c/o Cross County School District**

\$350,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: Cross, Lee, and St. Francis Counties  
Contact: Mr. Don E. Smith  
Telephone: (870) 588-3338

The East Arkansas Delta Consortium consists of the Cross County, Lee County, and Palestine/Wheatley School Districts located in the Mississippi Delta. The goal of this project is to use distance learning technology to improve student achievement and positively impact the local communities by increasing the availability of course offerings and instructional quality for these three rural school districts. This project, in collaboration with the Great Rivers Educational Cooperative, will place interactive distance learning classrooms at three high schools and one middle school. Also, to supplement instruction at these schools and two elementary schools, additional computer equipment will be installed in labs to allow students to use on-line resources individually or in small groups. This system will furthermore allow for professional development of residents of these communities by offering community college courses through the Great Rivers Educational Cooperative distance learning network. This project will positively impact 2,500 students, 268 certified teachers and approximately 5,000 residents.

***1998 Award***

**Arkansas Delta Consortium**

\$350,000

Arkansas

Areas Served: Phillips and Monroe Counties



Contact: Roy Kirkland, Jr.  
Telephone: (870) 572-7294  
Congressional District: Berry 1st Dist.

The Arkansas Delta Consortium is comprised of four school districts in the Mississippi River Delta with five end user sites. The four school districts, Barton-Lexa, Clarendon, Holly Grove, and Marvell will connect with the Great Rivers Educational Cooperative in West Helena, Arkansas. This project will benefit about 1,200 high school students, 400 elementary students, and 175 staff members, and 5,000 residents in the immediate communities per year in Phillips and Monroe counties. At each of the four high schools and one elementary school, multimedia computers will be installed in distance learning classrooms, libraries, media centers, labs, and/or regular classrooms to provide on-line and other technology resources for teaching staff and those students taking classes taught via distance learning.

### ***1995 Grant Award***

#### **St. Edward Mercy Medical Center**

A medical and education system will link SMC and three hospitals in western Arkansas. The sites will be able to access medical training, teleradiology/EKG interpretation services and training courses for medical professionals from West Arkansas Community College.

### ***1994 Grant Awards***

#### **University of Arkansas for Medical Services**

Areas Served: Fulton, Izard, Sharp, Searcy, Stone, Pope, Van Buren, Cleburne, Conway, Yell, Poinsett, Cross, Woodruff, Saint Francis, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, Dallas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Calhoun, Bradley, Drew, Ashley, and Chicot Counties

A consortium consisting of 7 small rural hospitals will bring interactive video and other electronic services to the remaining 5 hospitals currently not served by a medical network pilot project. These hospitals, located in the Eastern Delta and the North-central and West-central areas of Arkansas, will link to resources at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to complete a comprehensive medical and health services educational network serving 26 rural counties. Services include clinical consultations with medical specialists on diagnoses and treatment procedures, teleradiology, 24-hour access to trauma specialists, continuing medical educational programs, administrative consultations, mental health, public health and community health programs. The network will employ a combination



transmission pathway using T1 circuits where phone service is more advanced, and 56 Kbs, or switched 56, circuits for more remote sites.

### **Ozarks Unlimited Resources Educational Cooperative**

Name of Project: OURNET

Areas Served: Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties

A consortium of 19 high schools in North Central Arkansas will connect through a two-way interactive video system to other educational television systems and to various University of Arkansas campuses and programs. The schools will also will share teachers and course offerings among consortium participants. Funds will be used for studio equipment, classroom modifications and other video-related equipment. The transmission medium is linear broadband analog over fiber optic lines. Transmission facilities will be provided by 5 independent telephone companies, all RUS borrowers.

### ***1993 Grant Award***

#### **Baptist Medical Center**

Arkadelphia

A 67-mile teleradiology link with the center's flagship facility, in Little Rock, to send patients' images, scans and x-rays for review by specialists.