

Abstracts of Mini-Grant Projects Funded 2002-2003

10 Mini-Grant Projects: The consortium, in consultation with the Steering Committee and with an independent selection committee, chose to fund 10 special projects for the 2002-2003 school year. Projects were chosen according to how well they met Tech Prep guidelines, as established by both the Perkins legislation (Title II) and the NYS guidelines of a Tech Prep student / program success. Most projects were matched by a greater than or equal source of district funds. A short description of each project follows:

- a) Integrated Business Math Curriculum Development / TST BOCES Career Tech Center / \$1,700. This project money was used to fund curriculum development time in July and August for the Career Tech Math teacher and five special program teachers at the Career Tech Center. The Math teacher was approved to teach Business Math for TC3 Dual Credit. She then met with each of the career specialty teachers in Auto Body, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Occupations, and Welding. In order to successfully integrate Business Math she met with the teachers in each discipline to work closely on developing specialized curriculum. Students will be engaged with contextual / applied math projects, such as developing their own business plan and running their own virtual business throughout the school year.
- b) A+ Computer Repair Technician Course / Candor High School / \$5,717. This project at Candor High School is being created as a pre-requisite to their already existing CISCO Networking Academy. This project allowed them to get some of the software required as well as training for the teacher. Students will receive a national industry – recognized certification through this course.
- c) MOUS IQ Center / Ithaca High School / \$3,600. This project was developed by one of our established Tech Prep Business teachers. Students in her class were already developing high levels of competency in Microsoft Office. The teacher looked into getting them certified as Microsoft Office User Specialists (MOUS). The IQ Center allows her to administer MOUS tests and get her students this certification that meets national industry standards. She also received training from a Microsoft-certified trainer.
- d) Project Lead the Way Digital Electronics Lab / Ithaca High School / \$2,057. This allowed us to continue our support of the Project Lead The Way pre-engineering program at Ithaca High School, and strengthen the connection with TC3's Digital Electronics program. This allowed the teacher to secure additional materials for his classroom lab so that he could add the digital electronics courses to his PLTW sequence.
- e) Explorations in Teaching Computer Competence / Ithaca High School / \$957. Ithaca High School is starting a program to attract students into teaching as a career field. Students are receiving contextual instruction and are given the opportunity to practice teaching at the local elementary school. They are exploring connections to our early childhood program at TC3. This money allowed them to purchase materials needed for the first year of this program.
- f) Career Paths in Communications and Media Arts / Trumansburg High School / \$5,500. This allowed Trumansburg High School to start a Career Academy in Communications and Media Arts. They had a pre-existing video course, but this project allowed them to update their equipment to a digital lab, and allowed the teacher to get training from an industry consultant. In addition, in developing their project proposal, Trumansburg made a strong connection with the Communications Program Chair at TC3, and they are aligning their curriculum together. Over the summer, the Trumansburg instructor took a course with our TC3 instructor. They will be pursuing a Dual Credit agreement to give Trumansburg students advanced credit toward TC3's degree program.

- g) Preparing Students for the World of Technology through Networking / Marathon High School / \$6,706. Marathon is one of the first high schools in NYS to have gotten a business and technology sequence approved by SED to meet graduation requirements. This sequence has been developed to include CISCO Networking Academy I&II. In addition to this National Industry Standard, this project has a local industry partner of Pall Trinity Corp. Students will have industry tours, job shadows and internships. The district made an equal match to their request for funds and have invested a lot of work into this project – we are very excited.
- h) Creating Online Media Lab /Tompkins Cortland Community College / \$5,000. The program chair for TC3's Communications and Media Arts program wrote this proposal. She requested materials to allow her to create an online media lab for students in her communications courses who need extended access to our computers in order to complete their work in digital video and website creation. Part of her proposal included plans to extend her commitment to high school programs in the Tech Prep consortium – which she has been active in upholding. She has worked closely with Trumansburg High School (see project above) and is working closely with some other high schools as well.
- i) Alpha Smart Keyboarding Classroom Bundle / Cincinnatus High School / \$2,190. These Alpha Smart keyboards (which are portable word processors) are being used in the high school journalism program. This program is taught contextually, and students are responsible for creating the district newsletter and for reporting on school events such as sporting events and board meetings. In addition to supporting this program, the alpha-smarts can be signed out for any student in the high school to take home overnight if they need to write a paper. Cincinnatus is a high-needs district and these are being put to good use all around.
- j) Computers for Career Planning / DeRuyter High School / \$1796. -- These computers will be dedicated in the guidance office, so that all high school students in 9th and 10th grade can complete a career inventory / NYS Career Plan.