NEON Project: Outcomes & Evaluation Findings

NWAF 2006 Annual Conference
Bozeman, MT — April 29, 2006

Jere Mock, NEON Project
Russell Poulin, NEON Project
Donna Schaad, WICHE ICE
NEON’s MISSION

Northwest Educational Outreach Network

- To increase student access to high demand academic programs using electronically delivered courses
- To leverage regional academic resources that can be shared across states and institutions
NEON’s Organization

Funded by:
- 3-year grant
- U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)
- 10/02 – 9/05, extended to 03/06

NWAF Executive Committee serves as the project advisory committee

WICHE is the fiscal and operational agent
Matching Students with a Single Provider

PhD in Nursing

Oregon Health & Science University is delivering its nursing PhD program to students at:
- University of Alaska, Anchorage – 3 students
- Idaho State University – 3 students
Matching Students with a Single Provider

**Graduate Certificate in Library Media**

Montana State University-Bozeman is offering its certificate program online:

- Program serving several students in AK & WY
- NEON helped to get approval in ND
- 3 students in ND, more interest
Fostering Joint Programs

Graduate Certificate in Supply Chain Management

U of Alaska-Anchorage & Boise State University:
- Joint curriculum; Joint assessment rubric
- Addressed administrative/approval issues
- First student begins Fall 2006
- University of Hawaii-Manoa may rejoin
Creating Web Resources that Assist Students

Creating Web Resources that Assist Students

Creating Web Resources that Assist Students
Creating a Course Exchange Among Institutions

Spinoff: Nursing Education Xchange – NEXus

FIPSE grant to Western Institute of Nursing
- Build course capacity
- Share expertise
- Reduce course development costs
- Overcome barriers to student enrollment
- Partners: U of AZ, UCDHSC, UNC, OHSU, and U of UT
Creating a Course Exchange Among Institutions

WICHE Internet Course Exchange

Recommended by NWAF Executive Committee to:

- Create a partnership among institutions
- Share enrollments in online courses
- Develop business plan to support this new service
Ten Benefits of NEON Project

1. Created Spinoffs
2. Increased Partnerships
3. Got People Together
4. Kept Participants On Task
5. Obtained Critical Mass by Pooling Resources, Students
Ten Benefits of NEON Project

6. Helped Meet State Requirements
7. Institutional Attention
8. Find Right Educational Level
9. Grantsmanship Expertise
10. NEON Staff
Twelve Insights

1. Check Your Assumptions
2. Choice of Programs
3. Lack of Authority for Decisions
4. Turnover in NWAF and Campuses
5. The Plate’s Too Big
6. Top Down or Bottom Up
Twelve Insights

7. Can’t Always Get Consensus
8. Single Provider Model “Done to” Receive Sites
9. Need Campus Project Manager
10. More Institutional Buy-in
11. More Financial Incentives
12. More Funding for Students