

Hovland Development Fund Recipient Report

September 2009

Cornerstones Career Learning Center, Inc sought the development funds to support implementation (training money) for a project that will enable on-line collaboration of instructors and simultaneous classroom instruction to multiple sites. This project will enable Cornerstones to increase the availability of our adult education classes and make the most of employee time.

Projections indicate that 90% of future communication will be through video networking, so public and private businesses will need to make the move to incorporate new and improved technology. Unified communication will effectively connect offices, reduce cost, and improve efficiency. Students today want and need instant, visual access and lots of instant feedback. The new technologies make this possible.

Cornerstones has chosen Microsoft Live Meeting as the best software option to initiate the first stage of this project. Microsoft Office Live Meeting 2007 is an on-line meeting space that allows an organization to meet with colleagues online, which allows collaboration in real-time and over long distances. Live Meeting also allows students to connect to classes through the program and benefit from multiple instructors at multiple sites. The power of live meeting is that meeting attendees can deliver a presentation, promote a project, brainstorm ideas, edit files, and negotiate deals from their computer at a fraction of the cost and without the hassle of travel.

We are in the final testing stages for implementing this project and some training has begun. Training is available through an on-line tutorial, but we also plan to do a joint training for all staff that will be utilizing the program. Training our adult education teachers to use all of the components of the software and utilize it to the fullest potential will ensure a smooth transition for our students to this new classroom delivery.

The initial use of the program will enable the instructor and students to view the material on their computer. The instructor will utilize a headset with microphone to hear and communicate with others in the class at multiple sites. We would like to expand the project with additional equipment, including webcams, Smartboards, and recording equipment, which would allow for more visual interaction between participants and instructors. These additional tools will enhance the class curriculum and reach more individuals by incorporating multiple learning styles.

Cornerstones Career Learning Center gratefully thanks the SDALL and the Hovland Development Fund for this opportunity to train our educators to offer cutting edge, innovative activities for our adult students.