



DLT Awards – Tennessee

2007 Grant Awards

Rhea County Department of Education

Tennessee

\$496,212

Areas Served: TN -1 Hancock; TN -3 Rhea; TN - 4 Scott

Contact: Paul H. Riggs

Telephone: 423-775-7812

Fax: 423-775-7831

Congressional District: TN -1 Davis; TN – 3 Wamp; TN – 4 Davis

Three rural school districts in Rhea, Hancock and Scott counties in Tennessee are joining together to form a distance learning partnership to serve poor and isolated communities in Appalachia. Through the use of videoconferencing, schools will share resources to increase the variety and quality of classes and teachers will benefit by increased training opportunities presented through links with state colleges and universities.

2006 Grant Awards

Carey Counseling Center, Inc.

Paris, TN

\$50,000

Areas Served: Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley

Contact: Ms. Rozann A. Downing

Telephone: 731-642-0521

Fax: 731-642-1010

Congressional District: TN-08

Rural Development funds will be used to expand its current telemedicine program to clients in remote rural areas of Tennessee. The program will improve the quality and quantity of staff time by allowing more direct time with consumers and eliminate travel time to remote service areas. Videoconferencing equipment will improve consultation services available to staff that provide services to children in all CAREY sites. A child and adolescent psychiatrist will be able to participate in local children and youth team meetings and improvements in family therapy sessions can be realized. The project will extend services to seven rural counties of northwest Tennessee.

Community Health Network, Inc.

Talbott, TN

\$370,233



Areas Served: Campbell, Claiborne, Grundy, Hamblen, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Johnson, Lake, Morgan, Perry, Polk, Shelby, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson

Contact: Mr. Keith Williams

Telephone: 865-397-5947

Fax: 865-397-5774

Congressional Districts: TN-01, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase equipment that will deliver telemedicine specialty care to 16 primary care centers serving 46,000 residents of rural Tennessee. This project will enable rural residents to access specialty health care by visiting a primary care center in or near their home which will greatly reduce patient travel and increase patient services. Distance learning courses will also be provided for health care staff at the 16 end-user primary care centers.



Union County Board of Education

Maynardville, TN

\$273,334

Areas Served: Union

Contact: Ms. Brandi Coppock

Telephone: 865-992-5466

Fax: 865-992-0126

Congressional Districts: TN-03, 05

Rural Development funds will be used to implement a distance learning program to help students, teachers, and community members in Union County. The program will also focus on developing a system that will deliver high quality content to students in grades K-12 and all teachers, and create a community outreach program. Additionally, the more important focus is on providing Algebra I, Geometry, and specialized counseling services to the middle school, introducing Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes at the high school and expanding foreign language opportunities to all students. The system will utilize an interactive presentation system with interactive whiteboards and duo-video capabilities allowing all locations to see both presenter and presentation.

2005 Grant Awards:

Mountain States Health Alliance

Johnson City, TN

\$476,944

Areas Served: Johnson County

Contact: Lisa Heaton

Telephone: 423-727-1111

Fax: 423-727-1105

Congressional District: TN-01

A picture archiving communication system (PACS) will improve healthcare access for residents of rural Johnson County, TN. The PACS system captures, stores, manipulates, and transmits digital radiology images instead of film. Over 17,000 residents of Johnson County will benefit from the program.



Scott County Schools

Huntsville, TN

\$500,000

Areas Served: Scott County

Contact: Charles M. Lay

Telephone: 605-688-5676

Fax: 423-663-8867

Congressional District: TN-04

Algebra, virtual field trips. AP and Concurrent Enrollment classes, professional development, and the sharing of highly qualified teachers will occur over an IP-based interactive video conferencing distance learning system. Over 2,500 students at eight end-user sites will have expanded access to the enhanced educational offerings.

2004 Grant Awards:

University of Tennessee at Martin

Martin, Tennessee

\$499,999

Area(s) served: Benton, Carroll, Dyer, Henry, Tipton, and Weakley Counties

Contact: Dr. Joan K. West, 731-587-7015; Fax: 731-587-7018

Congressional District(s): TN-08

The University of Tennessee at Martin will establish distance learning facilities in six public schools in the project area. RUS funds will bring improved educational opportunities to students, provide professional development and administrative planning opportunities to teachers and administrators, and provide training, adult education and lifelong learning activities to rural residents in the areas of these facilities. Over 33,000 teachers and students will benefit from this initiative.

2003 Grant Awards:

Lincoln Memorial University; Harrogate, TN

\$398,094

Area(s) Served: Claiborne County, Tennessee; Counties of Whitley and Knox in Kentucky

Contact: Sylvia D. Lynch (423) 869-6359; Fax: (423) 869-6370

Congressional District(s): Applicant, 3rd Tennessee; Project, 3rd Tennessee, 5th Kentucky

Lincoln Memorial University will utilize RUS grant funding to form the Technology Alliance of Appalachia which will provide a means for three cooperating institutions, Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland College, and Union College, to provide two-



way teleconferencing capability to initiate distance learning for the 4,883 students enrolled. Access to area community businesses and civic groups for videoconferencing will also be offered.

University of Tennessee; Memphis, TN

\$484,983

Area(s) Served: Counties of Anderson, Benton, Carroll, Chester 7, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardin, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley

Contact: Karen Fox (901) 448-2920; Fax: (901) 448-8199

Congressional District(s): Applicant 9th, Project 7th and 8th

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center will utilize RUS grant funds to acquire telehealth facilities to provide dental, nursing, and behavioral health services to underserved individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in rural Western Tennessee. Participating sites include seven rural hospitals, a rural family practice clinic, two regional youth centers, 25 residential group homes/day habilitation center, and 65 individual homes of deinstitutionalized individuals with MRDD.

2002 Awards:

Sequatchie County School District

The Tennessee/Florida/Mississippi Distance Learning Consortium; Dunlap, Tennessee
\$500,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Sequatchie & Blesoe Counties, TN; Franklin County, FL; and, Bolivar County, MS

Contact: Johnny Cordell; (432) 949-3617; Fax: (432) 949-5257

Congressional District(s): Applicant - 3rd TN / Project: 3rd TN, 2nd FL, and 2nd MS

The Sequatchie County School District, a member of the Tennessee/Florida/Mississippi Distance Learning Consortium, will use RUS grant funds for a distance learning project that will enable (11) eleven end-user sites throughout four (4) school districts in three (3) states to network with each other through the installation of distance learning labs. This equipment will provide new educational opportunities such as new classes and advanced courses that will better prepare 4,371 students for post-secondary education and employment as well as unique instructional courses for specialized teachers. Approximately 69,000 rural residents of these communities will also experience significant benefits such as access to adult education, job skills training, and access to the Internet and video-conferencing equipment. The mobile labs will work with existing information lines at each end-user site, mostly T-1 lines. The project is designed to incorporate regional and national education networks.



University of Tennessee Health Science Center; Memphis, Tennessee

\$460,990 Grant

Area(s) Served: McKenzie, Selmer, Dover, Crossville, Dickson, Union City, Bolliver, Dandridge, Pikeville, Somerville, Tennessee and Amory, Mississippi

Contact: Karen Comer Fox (901) 448-5848; Fax: (901) 448-8199

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 9th -Tennessee / Project: 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th , 8th & 9th in Tennessee and 1st in Mississippi

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, a member of the Mid-South Telehealth Consortium, will use RUS grant funds to enhance access to new telemedicine services and health education programming. The predominant use of the project is telemedicine focused. Specifically, proposal seeks grant funds to increase available access to specialty medical diagnostics including ultrasound and teleradiology, as well as adding video conferencing equipment to expand available instruction and distance education. Rural clinicians will be able to participate in virtual grand rounds (i.e. weekly educational programs for physicians hosted by the College of Medicine), case presentations and CME accredited seminars. Patient education will also play an essential component in the delivery of complete healthcare services. The project will maximize efficiency by utilizing existing private and public facilities run by the members of this innovative partnership. The network is based on the recent H.323 protocols (the latest set of algorithms using T-1 and ISDN facilities). This project has the potential to serve 302,478 of the neediest and most isolated individuals across Tennessee and Northern Mississippi.

Claiborne County Department of Education

Tazewell, Tennessee

\$ 427,972 Grant

Area(s) Served: Harrogate-Shawnee CDP, New Tazewell in Claiborne County

Contact: Troy Poore (423) 626-3543; Fax: (423) 626-5945

Congressional District(s): Applicant and Project: 4th

The Claiborne County Department of Education will use RUS grant funds to purchase equipment for distance learning classrooms. The project will enhance current curriculum by allowing schools to share resources and develop into regional learning centers. Advanced telecommunications will provide access between two new high schools and Lincoln Memorial University for distance learning purposes. Courses that will be offered include Physics, Chemistry, employability skills, and adult basic education classes. Claiborne County's Department of Education will implement the use of advanced, broadband fiber optic telecommunications facilities to connect its two new high schools and Lincoln Memorial University. It is expected that the two county high schools and university will be interconnected by the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. There are plans to hopefully include additional schools in the future. The network will work in conjunction with other educational networks. It will also establish an interactive two-way video distance learning environment and a connection to international computer



networks. The project will benefit a student population of 2,750 and potentially 8,105 rural residents of the communities in the project service area.

University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy; Memphis, TN

\$490,012 Grant

Area(s) Served: Maryville, Cleveland, Jacksboro, Elizabethton, Tazewell, Newport, Rutledge, Morristown, Sneedville, Rogersville, Dandridge, Mountain City, Knoxville, Loudon, Athens, Madisonville, Benton, Sevierville, Blountville, Erwin, Maynardville, Jonesborough, Dayton, Pikeville, Crossville, Jamestown, Greenville, Chattanooga, Decatur, Wartburg, Livingston, Byrdstown, Cookeville, Huntsville, Dunlap, Sparta

Contact: Dick Gourley (901) 448-6036; Fax (901) 448-7053

Congressional District(s): Applicant 9th ; Project 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy (UTCP) will use RUS funds to expand upon a RUS Distance Learning Grant awarded in Fiscal Year 2001 to provide poison prevention and education to rural Tennesseans. The project will develop a telecommunication network linking the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service to UTCP's Southern Poison Center (SPC). By creating this network, residents will become aware of the Southern Poison Center as a valuable community service available to them to answer questions and seek treatment for potential poisonings and to prevent complications or death from accidental poisonings. The expansion of this project will significantly increase the number of individuals reached by the SPC and, most importantly, limit the impact of poisonings that occur among rural Tennessee residents. The project will utilize, among other things, web-based programming for dissemination of lesson plans, publications and links to other resources. County Extension educators, community pharmacists and other partners will be able to download materials and information to educate their local communities. Approximately 500,000 rural residents have the potential to benefit from this program.

2001 Grant Awards:

Polk County School System; Benton, Tennessee

\$500,000 Grant

Areas served: Polk and Meigs Counties, TN and Bolivar County, MS

Contact: Dr. William C. Wade; (423) 338-4506, Fax: (423) 338-2691

Congressional District(s): TN B 3rd and MS B 3rd

The Tennessee/Mississippi Distance Learning Consortium is comprised of the Polk County School System acting as the fiscal agent and Meigs County School System in Tennessee and Benoit School District in Mississippi. RUS grant funds will be used to install distance learning equipment in elementary, middle and high school classrooms to enable them to participate in shared instruction. The goal of this project is to use the tools of technology to improve student achievement and positively impact local communities by reducing the disparity in course offerings and instructional quality between these rural



school districts and more "resource-rich" areas. This system will: (1) enable students to access high-quality instruction in challenging upper-division coursework provided by subject matter; (2) enable students to acquire proficiency skills in using Internet resources for research and communication; (3) enable teachers in the Tennessee/Mississippi Distance Learning Consortium to participate in professional development via the distance learning network; (4) make it possible for fewer students in target schools to test at or below the 25th percentile on standardized tests; and (5) enable more students in target schools to test above the 50th percentile on standardized tests.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Memphis, Tennessee

\$493,675 Grant

Area(s) served: Carroll, Knox, Rutherford, Coffee, Dickson, Anderson, Tipton, Sullivan, and Shelby counties

Contact: Dr. Dick R. Gourley, Phone: (901) 448-6036; FAX: (901) 448-7053

Congressional District(s): 1st, 2st , 3 rd, 4th, 6th, 7th , 8th , and 9th.

RUS grant funds will be used to link the Drug Information Center of The University of Tennessee to eight community residency sites across the State of Tennessee as well as interfacing with the Agricultural Extension Service. The Drug Information Center will provide online drug information service for the pharmacists in those communities as well as the resources of the Drug Information Center to provide drug information to patients, physicians, and other health professionals. The focus of this project is on establishing education centers in community pharmacies with pharmacy residencies that will utilize the drug information services of the College of Pharmacy to: (1) provide drug information services to healthcare providers in rural areas of Tennessee where community pharmacy training programs exist; (2) increase the awareness of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, and other healthcare providers of the drug information services; (3) to extend this service to agricultural extension health specialists; (4) enhance the education of pharmacy students and residents; (5) develop new programs which address the issue of medication awareness of the public; and, (6) develop and evaluate the outcomes of this program.



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (The Delta Telehealth Project)

Memphis, Tennessee

\$498,747 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of Panola and DeSota in Mississippi, St. Francis of Arkansas, and Sumner, Maury, Madison, Obion, Bedford, Stewart and Cumberland of Tennessee

Contact: Ms. Karen C. Fox; Phone: (901) 448-5848; FAX: (901) 448-8199

Congressional Districts: Tennessee-- 4th, 6th, 7th , 8th & 9th ; Mississippi-- 1st & 2nd, Arkansas-- 1st

The "Delta Telehealth Project" is an alliance of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care providers seeking to bridge the gap between the resource-rich metropolitan center of Shelby county and surrounding medically underserved counties. Through a network of teleconferencing and telemedicine connections, health care providers will have access to a wide range of specialty services available from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. These medical specialties will include pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology, dermatology, pulmonology, infectious disease, and cardiology. Medical protocols have been designed specifically for this project to address specific health issues and shortages, including diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and behavioral health counseling. The end user sites are: the Ambulatory and Indigent Care Health Center (Batesville, Mississippi); the Community Health Services Center (Tunica, Mississippi); the East Arkansas

Children's Clinic (Forrest City, Arkansas); the Obion County Health Department (Union City, Tennessee); the West Tennessee Regional Office (Jackson, Tennessee); the Stewart County Health Department (Dover, Tennessee); the Sumner County Health Department (Gallatin, Tennessee); the South Central Regional Office (Columbia, Tennessee); the Bedford County Health Department (Shelbyville, Tennessee); and the Cumberland County Health Department (Crossville, Tennessee). The total population to be served by this project is 510,405.



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Pharmacy (HERCULES)

Memphis, Tennessee

\$459,295 Grant

Area(s) Served: Knox, Shelby, Rutherford, Carroll, Coffee, Dickson, Anderson, Sullivan, Tipton, Benton, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Greene, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Roane, Davidson, Cumberland and Weakley Counties

Contact Person: Dr. Dick R. Gourley; (901) 448-6036, Fax: (901) 448-7053

Congressional District(s): 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The Southern Poison Center of the University of Tennessee (UT) provides information on poisons and assistance in poisoning emergencies through a 24-hour Hotline. Specially trained pharmacists and nurses respond to medical inquiries with computerized poison information system and on-call consultations. This project will link the health specialists in the Agricultural Extension Office to the Poison Center providing them the opportunity of downloading educational materials to present educational programs taught by faculty from the Poison Center, UT Memphis campus, and UT Knoxville campus. Grant funds will be used to acquire computer equipment, upgrade existing equipment, acquire instructional programming and technical assistance providing rural residents and medical personnel poison consultations as well as health education on poison prevention.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (KIDS IN NEED)

Memphis, Tennessee

\$477,057 Grant

Area(s) Served: Fayette, Bledsoe, Jefferson and Davidson counties

Contact Person: Ms. Karen Fox; (901) 448-5848, Fax: (901) 448-8199

Congressional District(s): 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th.

The Kids in Need project will provide telemedicine capabilities from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to the clinical, educational and support needs of the population of the Youth Development Centers and Tennessee Preparatory School. Through this proposal, specialists in Child Psychiatry, Substance Abuse Counseling, Developmental Disabilities, and Pediatric subspecialties will be available to provide diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and education to all participants of the network. Rural residents will also benefit from educational programs, support groups, and life skills training; and staff of the Centers will gain the support of a network of health care professionals and social workers at their disposal. This assistance will include counseling on substance abuse, neglect, teen violence, nutrition and wellness education, teen pregnancy, and individual and group/family counseling.



2000 Awards:

CENTERSTONE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, INC

Nashville, Tennessee

\$114,563 Grant

Area(s) served: Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman, Humphreys and Stewart Counties

Contact: Ms. Fran Crater, (615) 463-6648; FAX: (615) 463-6603

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Congressional Districts

This project will link four rural sites to a Nashville hub through high-resolution equipment. This linkage will enable a behavioral health care professional and the client at each of these rural sites to interact with a psychiatrist at the hub site in Nashville.

Through this interactive project, Centerstone will provide the following services to mental health patients: (1) Intake assessments for new clients entering into treatment; (2) Clinical assessment for determining need for psychotropic medications; and (3) Psychological assessments to determine appropriate diagnosis and course of treatment for mental health and/or alcohol and substance abuse clients. This arrangement will also address the health priorities established by each of the four Counties, such as substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and suicide. Centerstone will be able to serve more clients and also serve them more efficiently and effectively. Training in the areas of use of new clinical forms and latest treatment options and methodologies will also be provided over this network.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Knoxville, Tennessee

\$176,429 Grant

Area(s) served: Campbell and Union Counties

Contact: Dr. Charles Norman, (865) 974-7114; FAX: (865) 974-1068

2nd and 4th Congressional Districts

This telemedicine project will enable residents of Campbell and Union Counties in Tennessee to link to the Rural Educational Access to Computers and Health (REACH) Program and to medical and nutrition experts at the University of Tennessee. The REACH Program is an interactive 10-week program that enables participants to assess their behavioral and lifestyle factors that lead to overweight, obesity and other health risks; learn nutrition and activity-related solutions; set goals; monitor progress toward these goals; and connect with community resources. Participants will have access to medical and nutrition experts at the University of Tennessee through presentations, chat Sessions, and through asynchronous bulletin board communication. Participants will also help each other solve problems through asynchronous bulletin board communication and through chat sessions. Participants will also be linked to other resources via the Internet. Thus, the purpose of this project is to: 1) Provide residents of Campbell and Union Counties in rural East Tennessee access to Internet-based chronic disease risk reduction programming via the Internet; 2) Provide residents of Campbell and Union Counties



access to health and medical experts located at a distant location via the Internet, and, 3) Determine the effectiveness of these interventions on health practices related to weight management and related chronic disease risks. The grant funds will be used to acquire computer equipment, upgrade existing equipment, acquire instructional programming for the REACH Program, and train and provide technical assistance to staff and program participants.

1999 Award:

University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville

Knoxville, Tennessee

\$319,970 Grant

County Served: Scott

Contact: Ms. Carolyn Berryhill, (423) 544-9663; Fax (423) 544-8883

The University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville serves a 34 county area in eastern Tennessee in the Appalachian region. The area encompasses 12,377 square miles, with a population of 1,600,298. The Scott County Telemedicine Project will enhance health care services to Scott County residents. The project is needed because of a high prevalence of chronic disease, inadequate specialty care and inadequate dental care. The project goals are to: (1) provide a telemedicine network to Scott County, a rural underserved community; (2) improve health care services and quality of life for residents of Scott County; (3) assist Scott County residents in meeting the health care goals set by the community; and, (4) educate rural residents on preventive health care measures and the need for compliance with their physician's recommendations, which will decrease the need for more serious intervention and lower the cost of health care. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant will make telecommunications technology more affordable and available to this rural underserved community.

1998 Award:

McNairy County/Selmer Center of Higher Learning and Training

\$39,013 Grant / \$51,987 Loan

Total: \$91,000

Location: Selmer Tennessee

Area(s) served: Chester, Hardeman, Hardin, and McNairy, counties in TN; Alcorn, Tippah, Tishomingo counties in MS

Contact Mr. Lynn Gibson

Telephone Number: (901) 646-1636

Fax Number: (901) 646-1648

Congressional Districts: 7th, 8th.

McNairy County/Selmer Center of Higher Learning and Training represents a partnership between the town of Selmer, McNairy County and the University of Tennessee at Martin.



In order to meet a recognized need for higher education and training in McNairy County and surrounding areas, the McNairy County/Selmer Center for Higher Learning and Training was constructed within the town limits of Selmer, Tennessee. RUS funding will provide for distance learning and computer and instructional equipment for the center's students. These distance learning applications will provide opportunities for higher education as well as non-credit continuing education courses.

1997 Award:

The University of Tennessee, Memphis

Award: \$127,178 Grant / \$120,484 Loan

Total: \$247,662

Location: Memphis, Tennessee

Area(s) Served: Tipton, Shelby, and Lauderdale

Contact Person: William MacMillan Rodney, M.D., Dr. Pam Connor

Telephone Number: 901-448-6028

FAX Number: 901-448-8006

In an effort to enhance learning and health care opportunities for rural residents of Tennessee, the Department of Family Medicine at UT-Memphis is proposing to link two urban residency sites in Memphis, TN (Baptist/Health Plex; St. Francis) with one rural residency site in Covington, TN (located in Tipton County) and one rural satellite clinic in Ripley, TN (located in Lauderdale County) in order to provide obstetric ultrasound imaging capabilities and UT-Memphis vax connections for (1) medical conferencing and review and (2) educational purposes. This project's main purpose is to provide telemedicine services. The telemedicine link will connect medical professionals at separate sites in order to exchange medical information related to ultrasound imaging for the rural residents of Lauderdale County. The project will also provide distance learning opportunities for faculty, residents, and medical students through the vax connects with UT-Memphis. There are no existing telemedicine connections currently at any of the sites. The two urban sites in Memphis are connected to the university vax, but have no access to any other telemedicine services.

1996 Grant Award:

Sequatchie County Board of Education

\$51,250

Dunlap, Tennessee

Contact Person: Larry Lockhart

Phone Number: 423-949-3617

FAX Number: 423-949-5257

Sequatchie County is located in southeast Tennessee adjacent to Hamilton County (Metropolitan Chattanooga Area). Access to the metropolitan area is limited due to the



topography and transportation system. The county operates a rural school system with a limited tax base which lacks the financial resources to address the distance learning needs of all the students. The school lacks the funds necessary to purchase computer equipment. An RUS grant award will provide funding assistance for the purchase of the computer equipment which will allow the students at the Sequatchie County Middle School to experience distance learning through access to the Internet and other electronic information resources. The students will benefit from the project by an enhanced learning environment. Linking the students and teachers to other non-rural schools will result in expanded learning opportunities for the all students and will also assist teachers in providing a more comprehensive instruction program for their students.

1994 Grant Award:

Excellence in Community Education and Economic Development

Clay, Fentress, Jackson, Overton, Pickett and Putnum Counties

This project will expand an existing distance learning network between 10 schools in a 5-county area. RUS will fund equipment which will complete a "hybrid" analog/digital system which operates over a existing fiber optic infrastructure. Funds will purchase (1) interactive television equipment for two high schools and a vocational center; (2) computer hardware and Internet connectivity for 4 high schools and 2 vocational centers; and (3) a CODEC at the hub site to provide videoconferencing capabilities. The system will operate in a mixed transmission medium using a linear broadband analog signal to provide multi-channel interactive television, and then modulate to digital to provide a wide area network environment for a computerized integrated learning system. By converting the analog-based system to digital, the end users will have access to broad sweep of digital information and electronic bulletin boards. All sites will have access to Internet's information and communication resources through a local node connection at the Tennessee Technological University.



1993 Grant Award:

Monroe County Schools

Madisonville

A computer-based compressed video network connecting three high schools with Hiwassee College and other sites for various types of instruction and staff development. In addition, a telemedicine component will be set up via the Internet.