



WIRED Program/Power Results Grant Mid-Year Progress Report, FY 2007-08

The San Juan BOCES Whole-Classroom Interactive Resource Development (WIRED) program is currently in its second phase. This document is an update of the second-phase activities, and will not include purchase, training, and other activities completed in the first phase. San Juan BOCES is implementing this grant primarily in grades 3 through 8, in fourteen buildings across five school districts.

Purchases

Per the grant narrative, the second phase has provided additional SMART Boards to participating buildings, as well as new technologies such as Senteo interactive response systems, Airliner wireless slates, digital camcorders, video-editing software, and 2-year building subscriptions to the ExploreLearning.com Gizmos site. We have also purchased “digital laboratories” for each building, consisting of digital microscopes, graphing calculators (for middle schools), basic calculators (for elementary schools), motion sensors, temperature probes, and related accessories and software.

The Equipment budget for this phase is approximately \$154,000, of which approximately \$148,000 has been expended. In mid-March, we will reconcile our purchases and determine how the rest of the equipment budget will be allocated.

To date, we have purchased the following, in keeping with our stated equipment goals and milestones:

- (33) 77” SMART Board interactive white boards
- (2) 48” SMART Board interactive white boards
- (7) SMART Board rolling floor stands
- (2) Bluetooth wireless devices for SMART Boards
- (18) Laptop computers
- (10) NEC LCD Projectors
- (2) Toshiba projectors with long-throw lenses
- (7) Senteo interactive classroom response systems
- (7) Airliner wireless slates
- (7) Presentation carts for housing projectors and laptops
- (8) Camcorders with Adobe video-editing software
- (3) Digital camera
- (14) Digital laboratories:
 - (14) Digital microscopes (for all schools)
 - (3) 100x microscope lenses
 - (3) 200x microscope lenses
 - (13) Logger-Pro software (for all schools)
 - (48) TI-84 graphing calculators (for middle schools)
 - (75) TI-15 explorer calculators (for elementary schools)
 - (9) Temperature probes (for middle schools)
 - (9) Motion sensors (for middle schools)
 - (8) Middle school science books, for use with this equipment
 - (6) Elementary school science books, for use with this equipment

Training

This year, we have continued offering training sessions to teachers; those who participated in the initial training last year, as well as new participants. These sessions meet our dissemination goals in two ways. First, for teachers who went through training last year, they provide additional, advanced training that enhances the



teacher's understanding of advanced concepts by including a variety of technologies into their classroom practices. These training sessions also give them additional resources to help new participants in their building. Second, the sessions for beginning SMART Board users provide a substantial enough foundation in the use of this technology that these teachers can immediately implement them in the classroom.

Our training sessions are taught by instructors from our primary suppliers, with supplemental training by San Juan BOCES staff and contracted consultants. Beyond teaching instructional concepts, they are also used to disseminate program requirements to all participants. These requirements ensure active participation in the program, and help us evaluate the program's success. (See *Evaluation* section below).

The training sessions for the second phase of the WIRED program include:

- *Basic SMART Board Training.* (2) 1-day sessions were held on February 26 and 27, and included instruction in use of SMART Boards, Senteos, Airliners, Gizmos math and science interactive website, and lesson-planning for SMART Boards. These sessions served 65 new participants.
- *Advanced SMART Board Training.* (2) 1-day sessions were held on February 26 and 27, and included instruction in the advanced use of SMART Boards, Senteos, Airliners, Gizmos math and science interactive website, and digital video editing using Adobe Premiere Elements software. These sessions served 45 existing program participants.
- *Digital Lab Training.* This 1-day session will be held on April 16, and will serve approximately 40 existing and new participants to the program.

In addition to specific equipment training, the following workshops are planned to enhance teachers' learning and exposure to the use of technology in the classroom. These sessions also provide additional opportunities to discuss the WIRED program in a collaborative environment.

- *McRel 2-Day Workshop: Using Technology with Classroom Instruction that Works.* This workshop, taught by the authors of the book *Using Technology with Classroom Instruction that Work*, will be held in June. We will include a copy of the book for all participants, and have space available for 80 teachers, administrators, and curriculum developers in the participating buildings. Successful completion of the workshop and assignments will earn participants Adams State College credit.
- *Technology in Education Conference.* The grant will provide an opportunity for a "team leader" from each building to attend the TIE Conference in June. This "team Leader" will have additional responsibilities related to the dissemination of the TIE information to all WIRED participants in their buildings.

Evaluation

We continue to evaluate the success of the program in several ways.

The use of the Blackboard Academic Suite (<http://blackboard.durango.k12.co.us/>) allows us to solicit feedback from participants, evaluate response to specific assignments, track user participations, disseminate program information, and provides a collaborative environment where teachers can post lessons plans and respond to comments and concerns from other participants. All content on Blackboard will be moved to the San Juan BOCES website (www.sjboces.org/wired) after completion of the WIRED program, in order to provide a teacher resource as it relates to the technologies in this grant.

Our other evaluation process involves Becky Smith, the educational consultant who visits the schools on a regular basis, and provides coaching, lesson-planning ideas, and other support to our program participants. By being in the classrooms, Becky can immediately see if the value of this technology is being fully realized.

We can see how well the technologies are being utilized in other ways, as well. In the Ignacio school district, for instance, the teachers and administrators in the Intermediate and Junior High schools have taken it upon themselves to find funding to ensure that all classrooms—not just those participating in the WIRED program—



have SMART Boards next year. This is great evidence of how critical this piece of technology has become at the building level. Such enthusiasm to the technology will help this program sustain itself long after the grant period is over.

Another success story is that of the participation of Fort Lewis College's Mary-Lynn Herr. Ms. Herr has attended our Basic and Advanced training sessions, and is working on SMART Board use with her pre-service teachers. For those teachers who start their teaching careers in one of the five San Juan BOCES-served school districts, they will have the advantage of immediately putting the SMART Boards to use as soon as they enter the classroom.

Summary

The WIRED program continues to go well, and we feel that we are meeting or exceeding the goals and milestones of the program. We are happy to provide additional information on request.