



August 28, 2008

To: Harry Roesch, ARC Project Coordinator
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068

From: Robert R. Byrd
P.O. Box 1709
Enka, NC 28728

Subject: ARC Progress Report for Contract # NC15443-06
Western North Carolina Education Network (WNC EdNET) Information
Technology Equipment

Dear Harry,

Attached herewith are two copies of the 6th 120-day progress report for the WNC EdNET ARC equipment contract. This report is a sequential continuation of the prior report submitted on April 29, 2008.

You will note that significant major activities occurring since the submission of the prior report included:

- The ARC funded switching, routing and distance learning equipment has been purchased and deployed.
- The development of a 2nd WNC EdNET formative evaluation initiative to collect data on Goal III (application of technology for learning enhancement).
- Continued work on connecting the remaining school with fiber.
- A financial report/request will be submitted by Roger Wiggins.

Copies of this report are being sent to the North Carolina ARC Liaison and the project officers of the Golden LEAF and Cherokee Preservation Foundations for their information.

Please let me know if you need additional information. Your assistance is acknowledged and appreciated.

Cc: Bill Gibson
Jan Webster
Golden LEAF Foundation – Mark Sorrells, Pat Cabe
Cherokee Preservation Foundation - Susan Jenkins
Olivia Collier

**WNC EdNET Technology Equipment
Contract # NC-15443-06**

**Progress Report
April 29, 2008 – August 28, 2008**

**Submitted to:
Harry Roesch, ARC Project Coordinator
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068**

**Olivia Collier, State ARC Liaison Officer
4313 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4313**

Submitted by:

**Bill Gibson, Executive Director
Southwestern Commission
125 Bonnie Lane
Sylva, NC 28779**

**Dr. Jan Webster, Director
Western Region Education
Service Alliance (WRESA)
P.O. Box 1709
Enka, NC 28728**

Acknowledgements

The Technology Coordinators, Technology Applications Committee, are commended for the assistance provided in the preparation of this report. The North Carolina ARC Liaison, Olivia Collier, has been helpful with the implementation of the WNC EdNET ARC component.

Report Distribution

It should be noted that the report will also be submitted to the Golden LEAF and Cherokee Preservation Foundations and to the NC Rural Center to be used as a project update/progress report for their respective purposes. The report has been sent to the N.C. ARC Liaison, Olivia Collier.

ARC Progress Report Outline

- I. WNC EdNET Background Information**

- II. Summary of Outcomes and Specific Progress**

- III. Summary and Projections**

- IV. ARC Financial Request**

Appendix A ~ WNC EdNET Activity Log

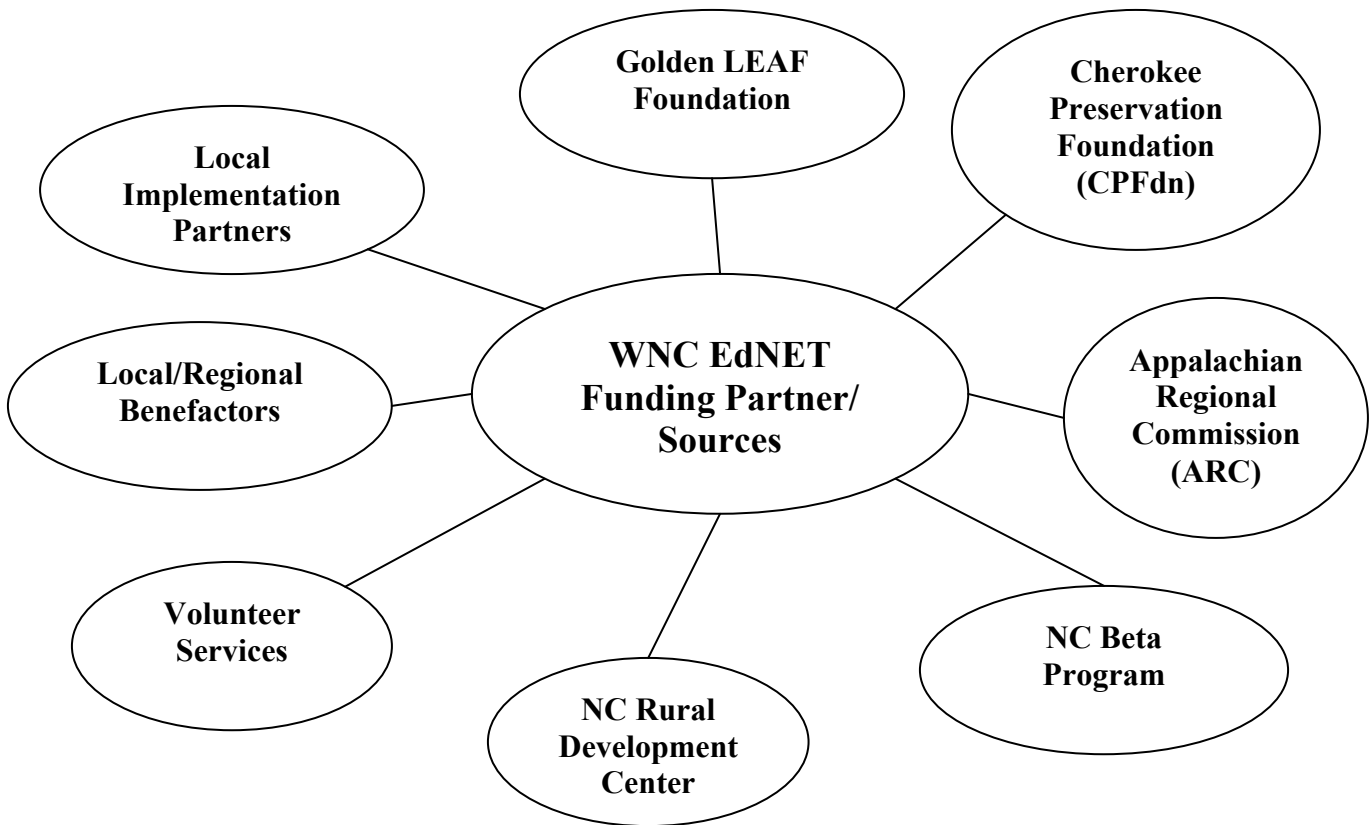
ARC Progress Report

I. WNC EdNET Background Information

This ARC Project is a partner with other funding sources such as Golden LEAF Foundation, Cherokee Preservation Foundation, local benefactors, The NC Rural Development Center and local sources (see Exhibit I, Funding Partners) for the purpose of establishing a broadband learning project called WNC EdNET.

Exhibit I

WNC EdNET Funding Sources



A brief summary of the WNC EdNET Project is as follows.

WNC EdNET Overall Purpose

To collaboratively assist the schools and colleges in **Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain Counties, and the Cherokee Tribal Schools** to procure and use upgradeable high capacity broadband technology configurations and services to enhance learning, professional development, and organization administration, and to open up learning opportunities not currently available or imagined.

Objectives

- 1) To establish a collaborative of partners for the purpose of collaboratively enhancing the development and use of technology as a tool for improving learning opportunities
- 2) To facilitate procurement of broadband infrastructure by participating partners' central and field sites
- 3) To facilitate capacity building and use of broadband technology for the enhancement of teaching and learning
- 4) To help export the WNC EdNET model to other potential adopting sites.

Partnerships and Organization

The project grantee, the Southwestern Commission, is in partnership with the Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA) to collaboratively manage the grants. An Executive Steering Committee composed of the CEOs of the 12 partners plus a Golden LEAF representative governs the project. Partner Technology Coordinators are primarily responsible for implementing and helping to evaluate the program. A Technology Applications Committee provides leadership in use of high speed technologies and applications. Consulting Partners from other agencies and organizations such as ERC, e-NC Authority and NCDPI provide technical leadership and guidance.

PARTNERS

Southwestern NC Planning & Economic Development Commission
Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA)
Jackson County Schools
Macon County Schools
Clay County Schools
Cherokee County Schools
Graham County Schools
Swain County Schools
Cherokee Tribal Schools
Southwestern Community College
Western Carolina University
Tri County Community College

ARC Component

The ARC funding from the grant is dedicated to the provision of electronic and distance learning equipment.

II. Summary of Outcomes and Specific Progress made toward implementing the major project activities.

Goal: (ARC Goal 2) “Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in a global economy.”

Strategies:

- *ARC Strategic objective 2.4 “Increase Educational Attainment and Achievement”*
- *NC Strategy 2.4.2 “Assist Appalachian Communities in activities promoting high education standards that will aid in retaining students through graduation, in increasing post-secondary attainment, and/or involving citizens in their education system.”*

The outcome for the project goal is long term and it is interconnected with the strategies.

Progress Although the goals and strategies are long term, and the **ARC equipment procurement has been completed**. The various partners are not operating in a vacuum. Currently each of the partners individually and collaboratively with the state and other initiatives are engaging in a mosaic pattern of activities which will enhance goal/strategy attainment. Examples are:

- The NC Department of Public Instruction has a regionally based Technology Consultant who monitors progress in technology planning procurement and use and assists and nurtures technology initiatives in the schools.
- Each of the partners has a Technology Coordinator and other staff assigned to planning, procurement and use of technology.
- State planners are in the process of planning for a statewide connectivity program designed to bring broadband connectivity to homes and schools. It is anticipated that the statewide program will build on existing regional networks such as WNC EdNET. Planners have received funding from the NC Beta Program for the purpose of completing WNC EdNET to Highlands.
- Each of the WNC EdNET partners is continuously procuring computers and other technology hardware and software. There is an increase in student technology access and use.
- The state of North Carolina Board of Education recently adopted 21st Century standards and aligned school personnel performance appraisal instruments. Standard IV, “Teachers facilitate learning for their students,” Element d, “Teachers integrate and utilize

technology in their instruction,” is on the new performance appraisal instrument, thus the use of technology in instruction is no longer optional. Teachers will be assessed using a 5-point rating scale with the categories of “Developing,” “Proficient,” “Accomplished,” “Distinguished,” and “Not Demonstrated.”

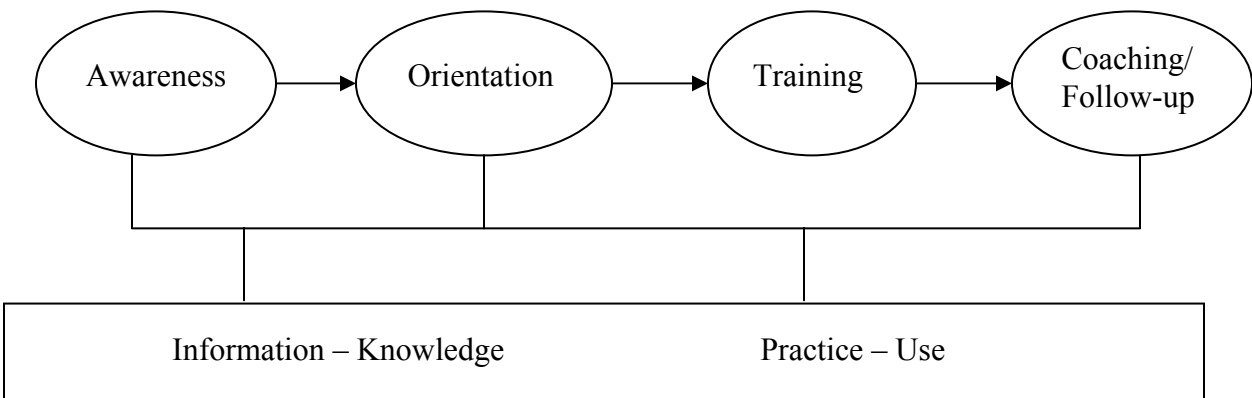
It is anticipated that the statewide emphasis on technology will accelerate the application and integration of technology by the WNC EdNET users.

- The Technology Coordinators have been and are planning professional development experiences related to broadband deployment configurations and applications. A series of specialized training/orientation sessions are being planned.

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation has recently provided a grant award of \$50,000 for the express purpose of encouraging the application of technology for learning enhancement and for the encouragement of systematic student engagement in the planning and technology use process. The leadership and financial support from the CPFdn is a major and highly significant element toward realizing the potential of the broadband infrastructure and equipment. A student engagement website is currently under construction.

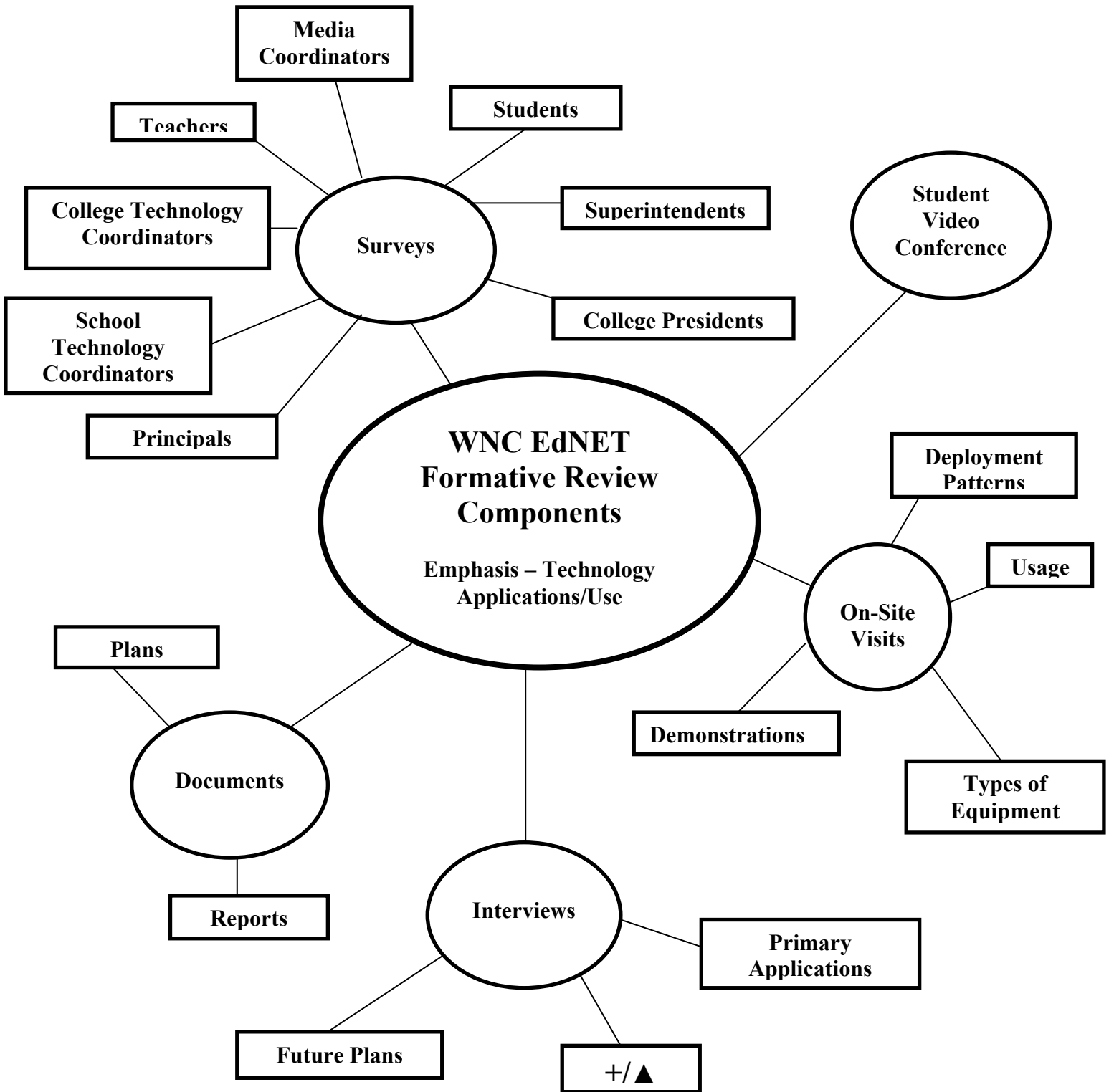
The WNC EdNET planners suggest the following teacher-student change process (Figure 1) as a viable approach for attaining application/use of technology for learning enhancement.

Figure 1



- Collecting, analyzing, and reporting baseline measurement data for formative evaluations. The project staff is in the process of finalizing the data collection process which will form the basis of the 2nd formative evaluation process/report. The data collection will be done systematically in September. The analysis and report of findings will be prepared in October. The final project report and evaluation findings will be submitted to ARC and other partner funding agencies near the end of October – early November. Figure 2 depicts a schema to be used as a framework for data collection. A four-member team will be used in the data collection analysis and reporting process.

Figure 2
WNC EdNET 2nd Formative Review



ARC Activity #1:

- *Sustaining a regional collaborative consisting of CEO's and Technology Coordinators from each of the implementation school district and college partners.*

The major collaborative activities during this reporting period consisted of the Technology Applications Committee's planning for the implementation of the technology application project (funded by CPFdn). The committee is planning a series of professional development/showcase activities for teachers and further planning student engagement activities to include the development of a teen website.

The Technology Coordinators, the Technology Applications Committee, and the WNC EdNET Executive Committee will meet September 17th for the purpose of orienting new committee members in addition to deliberating on a variety of other agenda items.

Ring ownership and college site connections are part of an interdependent package and still remains a goal for the WNC EdNET Project.

Additional work to be accomplished on this activity includes:

- An adoption of WNC EdNET Inc. focus, budget and staffing.
- Proceed with e-rate implementation.
- Continue to collaboratively seek funding and other resources to support the project.
- Continue working with the state to connect to the state backbone.

ARC Activity #2:

- *The building of the transport infrastructure to each of the 60 education sites is currently underway. Contract negotiations are in the final stages. Golden LEAF, Cherokee Preservation Foundation and Philanthropic contributions are the major sources of funding for the "build" phase. A portion of the Golden LEAF and Cherokee Preservation Foundation funds will be used to provide a match for the ARC funds herein requested. The vendor ASAP (Alliance for Southern Appalachian Prosperity) will complete the infrastructure build over the next several months. (Note: Some additional procurement funds will be needed.) The procurement goal is to connect each partner headquarters with each of its "field" sites (via star topology), then connect the partners with each other (via a ring), then connect to the outside world (via low cost internet services). **The ARC funds are being used to procure connection and use equipment which will allow the educational sites to access and use the transport infrastructure.***

Progress has been made during the reporting period toward accomplishing this activity as follows:

- **The ARC and match funded switching, routing and distance learning equipment has been purchased and installed. Most partners purchased additional locally**

funded related equipment taking advantage of the negotiated price structure. For example, see Appendix B – note from Karen Cook.

Existing school configurations and bandwidths meant that there was very little major change over 2007-08 school year. Schools transitioned from the previous internet delivery system to the delivery over the star configuration. Their overall bandwidth remained essentially the same due to that bandwidth being provided via e-rate contracts running July 1 – June 30. Videoconferencing equipment was acquired and installed and use of it began subject to the existing bandwidths. The schools expanded their overall bandwidth through e-rate contracts for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Benefits will begin to be seen when kids arrive in the fall. Schools are currently opening across the target region.

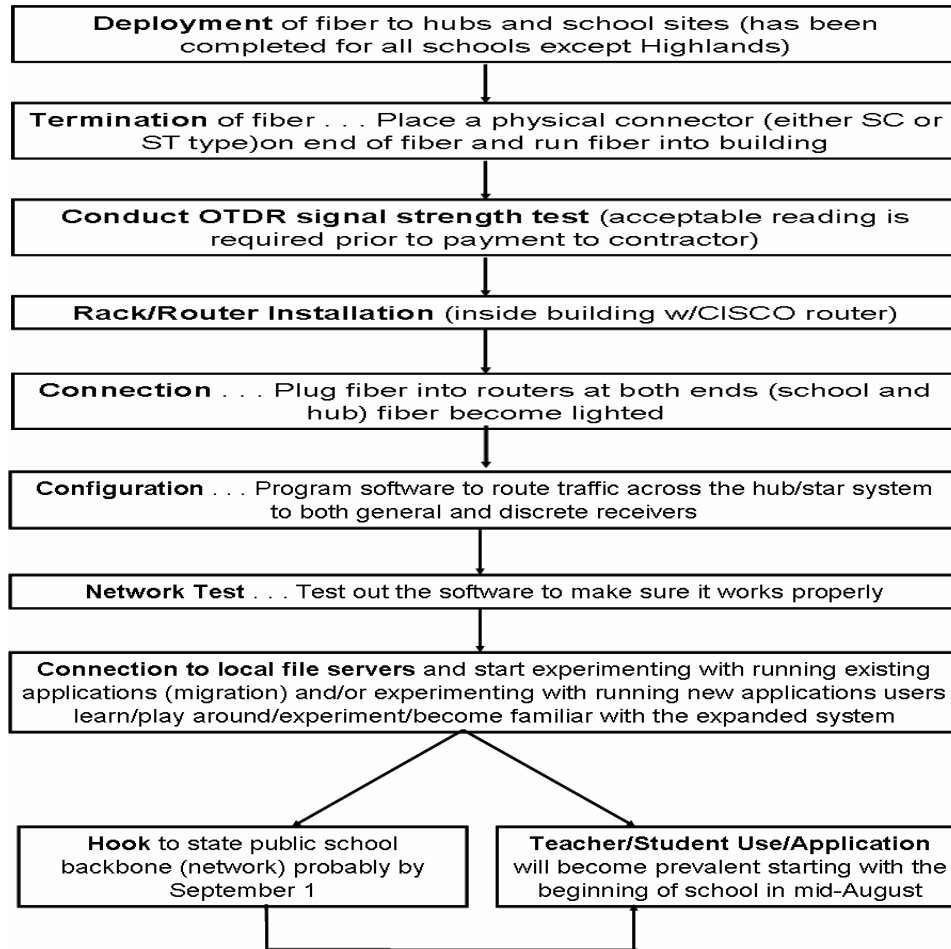
- A major activity during this reporting period consisted of the complex process of hooking up schools.

All WNC EdNET school sites with the exception of Highlands have been hooked to the fiber infrastructure. The process of being “hooked up” involves several stages to include: (a) deployment of fiber to hubs and school sites; (b) termination of fiber by placing a connector on the end of the fiber and running it into the building; (c) conducting signal strength test; (d) installation of racks and routers within the building; (e) connection of fiber at the hub and school end to routers (fiber becomes lighted); (f) the system is configured by installing software to route traffic across the hub/Star system; (g) a network test is conducted; and (h) connections are made to local file servers so that the users can start running applications.

As you can see this is a lot of work and involves numerous persons and schedules to be coordinated (See Figure 3 Depiction of Sequence of Connection to Sites).

Figure 3
Depiction of Sequence of Connection to Sites

The following sequence is followed in order to get schools ready to run teaching learning applications.



Byrd/Winchester
2008

- Site staffs are in various stages of start up in becoming familiar with the systems and running applications. School is starting and the applications will be more systematic involving the technology coordinators teachers and students.
- Progress is being made on the Highlands deployment. A US Highway 64 right of way issue is the hold up. The provision of signal regeneration capacity for Nantahala School is being established in cooperation with Swain County.
- The Graham County offices have all been hooked up. A follow up visit is needed to determine the precise use of the technology there.

- The charter school sites will be hooked up when the state constructs the backbone to them.

Additional work needing to be accomplished on this activity includes:

- Complete the deployment of fiber and electronics to Highland school.
- Continue to start up and run local applications using the broadband technology.

ARC Activity #3:

- *The selecting, procuring and installing of ARC procured connection, switching and use equipment is the first major ARC proposed activity. The project engineer working with the technology coordinators have the primary responsibility of coordinating this activity. The equipment will need to be selected, ordered, installed and tested in the first phase.*
- Progress toward accomplishing this activity is described in the previous section (Activity 2).

Additional work to be accomplished on this activity includes:

- Provide training.
- Use equipment to enhance learning.

ARC Activity #4:

- *The use of the technology to enhance learning will be a long-term process and will be coordinated by the partner Technology Coordinators and Curriculum Coordinators. Regionally the partner Technology Coordinators and Curriculum Coordinators comprise the Technology Applications Committee which will provide much of the leadership and guidance for the technology application/use phase of the project. The Technology Application Committee is currently under the co-chair leadership of the college and public school sectors and has been operational for several months.*

Progress: As reported under ARC Activity #1, the CPFdn funded application initiative is the major region-wide systematic approach for learning enhancement. Specific school partners are using a variety of application tools. The survey next month will provide additional information relative to the array of learning enhancement applications.

ARC Activity #5:

- *Record keeping, data collection, data analysis and reporting will be a major project activity and will be part of quality control monitoring and evaluation. The project director will coordinate this activity. Periodic reports will be provided to the key stakeholders in the project as well as to the funding agencies.*

Progress: Project staff has continued to update the Project “Activity Log” (See Appendix A WNC EdNET Activity Log). The finance officer continues to provide updated information on the budget. He has submitted two financial reports to the CPFdn during this period.

Additional work to be accomplished includes:

- Prepare and submit reports.
- Gather and analyze evaluation data in the areas of student performance, contract negotiations, quality control of infrastructure deployment; and awareness conference and training efficacy.
- Prepare and distribute evaluation reports.

ARC Activity #6:

- *Dissemination and exportability of the project will be done as needed. A publicity event and some overview presentations have been provided to describe project progress thus far. A project brochure has been developed. More formal presentations and technical assistance capability will be developed to assist “adopters” as the WNC EdNET demonstrates more effectiveness.*

Progress: The WNC EdNET brochure was distributed to approximately 2,000 participants at the October Awareness Conference. The WRESA maintains WNC EdNET links on its website.

Additional work to be accomplished includes:

- Continue presentations at national, state and local meetings.

III. Summary/Projections

Practically all of the infrastructure is in place and the school sites are hooked up. The focus and emphasis now shifts to application and use.

IV. ARC Financial Request

All of the ARC funds are obligated and some payments are needed to be made. Roger Wiggins will send directly to ARC a financial request/report to support the project activities.

Appendix A

WNC EdNET Activity Log

Appendix A Activity Log

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
4/12/2005	WRESA	Bill Gibson (SEDPC), Mark Sorrells (Golden Leaf), Patricia Cabe (Golden Leaf), Dale Carroll (Advantage West), Billy Clarke (Golden Leaf), Roger Metcalf (WRESA), Bob Byrd (WRESA)	Meeting called by Bill Gibson to explore WRESA involvement/ assistance with Golden Leaf Technology effort in western most North Carolina schools. WRESA agreed to collect needs data and to follow up with school superintendents and technology coordinators.
4/20/2005	WRESA	6 Superintendents, WRESA Director	WRESA Director briefed superintendents on possible Golden LEAF initiative and needs data collection.
4/26/2005	SWCC	SWCC, WRESA, 6 School District Technology Coordinators, Balsam West, Drake Enterprises, WCU, Cherokee Tribe TCCC, NC DPI	Excellent information, sharing session. Presentation by SWCC and Balsam West group as per broadband history/efforts in 6 western counties.
4/26/2005	SWCC	WRESA, 6 School District Superintendents/Technology Representatives, NC DPI	WRESA Director asked for direction and planned next steps.
4/29/2005	Swain County High School	WRESA, 6 School Superintendents and Technology Coordinators, NC DPI	WRESA Director presents overview information on Golden Leaf effort and requests direction from superintendents who advise him to proceed with planning and development of a grant application.
5/12/2005	Franklin	WRESA, Clay County School Superintendent, Technology Coordinator	Discussed technical possibilities, background information and future direction.
5/18/2005	WRESA	WRESA, 6 Superintendents	WRESA Director updated superintendents on needs data.
5/20/2005	Jackson County	WRESA, Superintendents, Golden Leaf	WRESA Director and Golden LEAF staff discussed broadband collaborative issues and possibilities.
5/23/2005	WRESA	WRESA, Swain Technology Coordinator, Clay Technology Coordinator, Golden Leaf, ERC, Cherokee Preservation Foundation, E-N-C Authority	Information update, question and answer, multi-party involvement agreement for proposal development.
6/1/2005	Franklin	WRESA, D-Net, Clay County Schools	Multiple party information sharing.
6/1/2005	Franklin	WRESA, Clay County Schools	Planning, organization
6/7/2005	Murphy	Pat Cabe, Mark Sorrells, Roger Metcalf, Norman Oglesby, Marjorie Tucker	Information sharing - working on collaborative model.
6/8/2005	Webster	Pat Cabe, Mark Sorrells, Roger Metcalf, Norman Oglesby	SCC - Information sharing - working on collaborative model.
6/14/2005	Cherokee	Brandon Stevens, Bob Byrd, Charles George, Andy Gibson, Roger Metcalf	Information sharing - building a collaborative model.
6/21/2005	Cherokee	WRESA, EBCI Planner	Information sharing
6/21/2005	Cherokee	WRESA, EBCI School Superintendent	Information sharing, organization
7/8/2005	Asheville	WRESA and selected collaborative members	ENC Authority conference; Connectivity meeting - presentation.
7/15/2005	Bryson City	Andy Gibson, Leonard Winchester, Bob Byrd, Roger Metcalf, Mark Sorrells	Update - Review - Setting dates
7/15/2005	Robbinsville	Mike Edwards, Bob Byrd, Roger Metcalf	Discussion of Graham's needs in broadband connectivity.
7/15/2005	Sylva	Technology Coordinators	Information sharing, planning

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
7/18/2005	Bryson City	WRESA, Clay, Swain Technology Coordinators	Information sharing, planning
7/21/2005	Franklin	WRESA, Technology Coordinators	Information sharing, planning
7/26/2005	Bryson City	WRESA/Southwestern Commission	Fiscal agent determination.
7/28/2005	Murphy	WRESA, Technology Coordinators, Golden LEAF, Southwestern Commission	Agreement on basic plans
7/29/2005	Franklin	WRESA, Superintendents, College Presidents, Technology Coordinators	Agreement on plans, budget, & service agreement
8/10/2005	Franklin	WRESA, Clay, Swain	Budget, Bidders' guidelines
8/11/2005	Bryson City	WRESA, Clay, Swain	Technical design discussions
8/15/2005	WRESA	WRESA, Southwestern Commission	Final Proposal submission
8/16/2005	WRESA	WRESA, Clay	Process checklist development.
8/22/2005	Cherokee	WRESA - Region A	Annual dinner
8/26/2005	WRESA	WRESA, Golden LEAF, Clay	Process checklist developed.
9/16/2005	Franklin	WRESA-2, Southwestern Commission-2, Etel. Com-4	Announcement of Golden LEAF Award/Conditions
9/29/2005	Swain HS	Technology Coordinators-9, WRESA/Southwestern Commission-2, CEO's-2, Other-15	Pre-Bidder Conference
10/13/2005	Cherokee	WRESA-2, CPFdn-3	Explore funding options
10/27/2005	WRESA	Bob Byrd, Andy Gibson, Leonard Winchester	Plan evaluations and procurement bid
10/28/2005	Email, Phone	WRESA-1, CPFdn-1	Submit questions/COI
11/1/2005	WRESA	WRESA-1, Golden LEAF-1	Explore COI Policy & budget
11/3/2005	Swain MS	WRESA-2, Clay, Swain, SW Commission	Plan procurement and CPFdn budget
11/9/2005	Email	WNCEdNET Groups	Mail CPFdn draft
11/11/2005	WRESA	WRESA-1, Vendors-8	Receive proposals
11/14/2005	Swain MS	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-9, Consultants-2	Open/review proposals
11/16/2005	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-9, Consultants-2, Vendors-8	Vendor proposal presentations
11/17/2005	Macon BOE	Technology Coordinators-9, Consultants-2	Review proposals
11/22/2005	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-9	Review proposals
11/29/2005	Cherokee Holiday Inn	WRESA-1	Burroughs Welcome Mtg
12/7/2005	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-9	Review proposals select ASAP
12/16/2005	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, SW Commission-2, Technology Coordinators-9, Executive Committee-9	Present recommendations to Executive Committee ASAP
1/3/2006	WRESA	WRESA-2, Golden LEAF-1	Review progress plan budget
1/10/2006	Sylva	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-2	Plan setup of Applications Committee
1/19/2006	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-9, Vendors-11	Negotiations with ASAP/planning
1/20/2006	SW Commission - Bryson City	Technology Coordinators-4, Executive Committee-3, WRESA-3, Golden LEAF-1	Plan publicity, discuss negotiations, plan budget format/process, plan future funding

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
1/25/2006	Clay BOE	Technology Coordinators/Applications Committee-14, WRESA-2	Organization of Technology Applications Committee
1/27/2006	Cherokee County Schools	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinators-1	Site visit/Formative Evaluation
1/27/2006	Clay County Schools	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinators-1	Site visit/Formative Evaluation
2/1/2006	WRESA	WRESA-3, Technology Coordinators-2	Plan ERC funding presentation
2/6/2006	Congressman Taylor's Office	WRESA-2, Golden LEAF-1, Technology Coordinators-2, Congressman-1, ERC-6	Funding request presentation
2/9/2006	SW Commission - Bryson City	WRESA-1, SW Commission-1	Budget Process Planning
2/9/2006	Swain County Schools	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinator-1	Site visit/Formative Evaluation
2/9/2006	Cherokee Central Schls	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinator-1	Site visit/Formative Evaluation
2/10/2006	Various	WRESA-2, Applications Committee-8	Cyber Mtg -Test of Centra
2/14/2006	WRESA	WRESA-8, LearNC-1	Review NC LEARN online courses
2/17/2006	SWCC	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinator-1	Site visit, evaluation
2/17/2006	WCU	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinator-1	Site visit, evaluation
2/20/2006	Macon BOE	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators/Application Committee-15	Technology Coordinators review contract negotiations option, Applications Committee selection of facilitator
2/23/2006	CPFdn	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-4, CPFdn-5	Review CPFdn/WNCEdNET grant application
3/1/2006	WRESA	WRESA-3, Technology Coordinators-2, ARC-1	Prepare ARC request
3/6/2006	Cyber Mtg	WRESA-3, Technology Coordinators-5, Application Committee-8	Centra Orientation, Review websites
3/7/2006	CPFdn	WRESA-1, Technology Coordinators-1, CPFdn-2	Review contract elements
3/9/2006	WRESA	WRESA-2, Technology Coordinators-2	Revise ARC request
3/10/2006	WRESA	WRESA-2, Southwestern Commission-2, CPFdn-1	Notification of funding
3/13/2006	WRESA	WRESA-4, Etel Com-11, Technology Coordinators-9, Consulting Committee-8	E-mail notice of CPFdn Funding
3/20/2006	Macon Co Sch	TAC (14)	Discuss needs assessment Internet II
12/7/05 - 6/19/05		Contract negotiations led by Leonard Winchester	
3/27/2006	WRESA	GL-1, WRESA-3	Discuss publicity event & work W R-Polk
4/12/2006	Rutherford BOE	WRESA-2, E Polk Pangea Librarians-20, Rutherford CS	Discuss plans for P-R broadband
4/24/2006	WRESA	WRESA-2, GL-2, Polk-2, Ruth-2, Cher-2	Discuss Golden LEAF Grant possibilities; decision for e-Polk to be grantee

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
4/27/2006	Smokey Mtn Elem Sch	Numerous agencies-26, approx. 250	GL/CPFdn Publicity Event
5/8/2006	Macon Co Sch	TAC-15	Review Tech programs
5/31/2006	Jackson Co Schools	Technology Coordinators-11, WRESA-3	Review contract, set up planning for maintenance
5/31/2006	Jackson Co Schools	Exec. Comm-7, Tech Coordinators-11, WRESA-3	Approve draft contract elements
6/8/2006	PPFdn	WRESA-1, CPFdn-1	Review evaluation
6/12/2006	Macon Co Sch	TAC-12, WRESA-1	Review Tech programs/needs policies
6/19-23/06	WRESA	Exec Comm, Tech Coord, SW Commission	Prepare ARC application
7/11/2006	CPFdn	WRESA (1), CPFdn (1)	Deliver WNC EdNET Brochures
7/11/2006	Raleigh	Lt. Gov (2), WRESA (1), Tech Coord (2)	Discuss state networks
7/14/2006	WCU	Exec. Comm. (1), WRESA (2), Other (3)	Review ASAP contract
7/18/2006	WRESA	Consulting group (1), WRESA (1)	Review evaluation for WNC EdNET
7/18/2006	Ch Hill	East-West Mtg. WRESA (1), Tech Coord (3)	Review broadband configurations
7/19/2006	Macon BOE	Tech Coord Mtg Tech Coord (7), WRESA (1), Other (2)	Approve contract; approve maintenance structure
7/19/2006	Macon BOE	Exec. Comm. (12) Tech Coord (6) WRESA (2)	Approve contract; approve maintenance structure
7/25/2006	Unknown	Tech Coord (4), WRESA (1)	List questions about the assessment goals and objectives
8/21/2006	SW Commission - Dinner	County Gov. Reps,	Annual Meeting
8/23/2006	SW Commission-Webster; Tech Coord Mtg	Tech Coordinators (6), WRESA - SW (4), Other (1)	Specific partner builds; discuss contract, ARC and maintenance.
8/30/2006	Cherokee Casino	WNC EdNET Presentation; WRESA (1), Other	Show Casino CPFdn Projects
8/30/2006	SW Commission - Webster	Staff Planning; SWC/WRESA (4), Tech Coord (2)	Planning contracting
9/7/2006	SWCC	WNC EdNET Planning; Tech Coord (2), SWC/WRESA (4)	Planning contracting
9/22/2006	Macon County Schools	Tech Coord. Meeting; Tech Coord (8); WRESA/SWC (2)	Discuss budget/ARC allocations
9/27/2006	Robbinsville	Exec Comm (1), WRESA/SWC (3), Tech Coord (1); Other (commissioners) (5)	Plan/explore Graham transport possibilities

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
10/10/2006	Cherokee	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (3), TAC (5)	TAC Plan Conference
10/26/2006	Webster	WNC EdNET SWC (1), WRESA (1)	Planning Bookkeeping
11/28/2006	Hayesville	Tech Coord (1), WRESA (1)	ARC Planning
11/29/2006	Phone Person/WRESA	SWCC (1), GCS (1), CPFdn (2), G. County (1), Tech Coord (1), WRESA (3)	Plan, prepare, submit to CPFdn Graham Co Supplement
12/5/2006	Macon Co BOE	Tech Coord (10), WRESA (2), TAC/Other (6)	Plan Awareness Conf. Select WRESA to manage; update WNC EdNET maintenance - management structure
12/7/2006	Phone	Tech Coord (2), WRESA (1)	Update/briefing ARC Report Planning
12/11/2006	Phone	Tech Coord (2), WRESA (3)	Plan ARC encumbrance process
1/4-5/2007	Webster/Cherokee	SW Comm (2), WRESA (2), CPFdn (1)	Prepare/submit Funding Spent Report
1/16/2007	Webster	Tech Coord (14), TAC (1), WRESA (2), SW Comm (2), Golden LEAF (1)	Review contracts, review Bi-laws, review Awareness Conf. Program, review funding
1/25/2007	WCU Cullowhee	WRESA (6), Other (4)	Scope out Ramsey Center for WNC EdNet Awareness Conf.
1/26/2007	WCU Cullowhee	WRESA (2), WCU (2), Tech Coord (2), Other (6)	Discuss/plan possibilities to use e-NC Authority to support EdNET
1/30/2007	Conference Call	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1), CPFdn (2)	Discuss Graham Supplement request
1/31/2007	SWCC - Webster	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (4), Other (4)	Review by vendor of SONET/alternatives
2/5/2007	Conference Call	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (10), Other (4)	Discuss 501 (c) (3) Janirve and Graham Supplement
2/6/2007	Macon Co. Tech Center	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (10), Other (4)	Review switching, routing and other equipment via vendor presentations for possible WNC EdNET procurement.
2/7/2007	WRESA - Phone Call/Discussion	WRESA (3), Other (1)	Establish contact with Janirve Foundation. Meeting set up with Mr. Dyson.
2/8/2007	WCU	WRESA (1), Other (4)	Planning session for Awareness Conference.
2/14/2007	Phone/Email	WRESA (3), SW Comm (2), Tech Coord (2), Others (7)	Prepare follow up report for CPFdn Graham Supplement.
2/22/2007	Graham Co. BOE Robbinsville	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1), BWFN (3), Execu. Comm. (1), Tech Coord (5), Other (4)	Review/plan/summarize CPFdn Graham Supplement, pricing and work schedule.
2/22/2007	WCU Outreach Center	WRESA (2), WCU (5), TAC (3)	Review Awareness Conf. Program plans. Decide on 2 Keynote speaks, discuss VIP representative.
2/23/2007	Janirve Office	WRESA (1), Tech Coord. (1), Other (1)	Discuss WNC EdNET needs with Janirve Director. Determine application/funding process.

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
3/7/2007	SW Comm	WRESA (1), SW Comm, (1), Tech Coord (1)	Realign budget.
3/9/2007	Harrah's Casino Hotel	Multiple agencies and participants.	Showcase of Balsam West Fiber Net
3/15/2007	MC NC Ofc RTP	Tech Coord (10), MC NC RTP (7)	Switching/Routing discussion and comparison
3/19/2007	Macon Co BOE	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (9), Other (1)	Discussed 501 (c) (3) WNC EdNET Inc. Revise draft, decide to meet March 28 on switching/routing.
3/21/2007	Southwestern Comm	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1)	Review project progress
3/23/2007	Email/Phone	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (3), Exec Comm (3), Other (1)	Review legislative possibilities/implications for WNC EdNET.
3/26/2007	SWCC	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (2), Exec Comm (3), Other (1)	Meet with Rep. Haire to discuss legislative implications.
3/27/2007	Bryson City	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (2)	Review WNC EdNET progress and plans for equipment/hooksups.
3/28/2007	SWCC	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (9), Other (3)	Engineer technology comparisons SONET, ethernet DWDN
3/28/2007	SW Comm	WRESA (1), SW Comm (3)	Review CPFdn Graham Supplement & 501 (c) (3)
3/29/2007	Cherokee	WRESA (1), CPFdn (1)	Complete grant award contract Graham Supplement
3/30/2007	WRESA	WRESA (3), Tech Coord (4), Other (4)	Discuss BETA Application
4/3/2007	ERC Asheville	ERC (3), WRESA (2), Tech Coord (2)	Review/tour ERC and discuss services
4/19/2007	SW Comm	Tech Coord (10), WRESA (1), SW Comm (1), Other (1)	Tech Coord Meeting review 501 (c) (3) - approve. Review equipment/maintenance issues - adopt 100% approach.
4/25/2007	Jackson County BOE	TAC (2), Exec Comm (1), Tech Coord (10), WRESA (2), SW Comm (1), Other (1)	Tech Coord discuss/adopt 501 (c) (3). Discuss WNC EdNET maintenance.
4/25/2007	Jackson County BOE	Exec Comm (9), TAC (2), Tech Coord (10), WRESA (2), SW Comm (1), Other (2)	Executive Committee - adoption of 501 (c) (3) guidelines - review Awareness Conf - empower maintenance study group
4/26/2007	Tribal Tech. Coord. Cherokee	WRESA (1), Tech. Coord. (1), TAC (1)	Discuss Dissemination Program for CPFdn
5/9/2007	Jackson County BOE	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (2), Exec. Comm. (3), SW Comm. (1), Other (1)	Formalize 501 (c) (3) budget/guidelines
5/10/2007	SW Comm	WRESA (2), SW Comm (2), Tech Coord (1)	Budget integration and delineation work session – Golden LEAF budget report
5/14/2007	WRESA	WRESA (3), Other (2)	Janirve Grant Application preparation
5/23-25/07	WRESA	WRESA (3), SW Comm (2), Tech Coord (2), Others (5)	Prepare ARC Graham Application
6/24-26/07	Atlanta, GA	WRESA (1)	ISTE Conference

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
6/24-27/07	Grove Park Inn	Tech Coord (2), Other	WNC EdNET presentation statewide Summer Leadership Conference
7/12/07	Graham/Macon County Field work	WRESA (1), Tech (2)	Inspect fiber construction/deployment
7/13/07	WRESA	WRESA (7)	Awareness Conference Planning
7/16/07	WRESA	WRESA (7), TAC (2)	Awareness Conference Planning
7/23/07	Jackson/Swain County	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (2), Exec Comm (3), Other (6)	Tour of WNC EdNET infrastructure construction sites - project luncheon provided by CPFdn to update project funding agencies.
7/24/07	SW Comm	Tech Coord Mtg Tech Coord (9), WRESA/SW Comm (3)	Prepare equipment purchase list. Chose Cisco switching and routing equipment.
8/2/07	Phone/Email	CPFdn (2), Tech Coord (2), WRESA (2)	Initial planning for Gates Foundation funding discussions.
8/3/07	Swain County Schools BOE	WRESA (3), Tech Coord/TAC (6)	Planning for Awareness Conference
8/3/07	WRESA	WRESA (3)	Submission of funding request for Highlands to Beta
7/24-8/15/07	Mail	Tech Coord (7), SW Comm (1), WRESA (2)	Preparation & processing ARC equipment PO's
8/22/2007	Macon BOE	WRESA/SW Cimm (2), Tech Coord (9), Exec Comm (1)	Review RFD for equipment hookup. Decided to re-bid. Review Gates initiative.
8/21/2007	Cherokee	Govt. Leaders Western Region	SW Commission Annual Meeting
8/22/2007	Macon BOE	Tech Coord Mtg Tech Coord (9), WRESA (1), SW Comm (1)	Plan distance learning equipment specs.
8/22/2007	WRESA	WRESA (1), SWC (2)	Prep. ARC Progress Report, funding drawdown request
9/11/2007	Macon BOE	Tech. Coord Mtg (8)	Discuss equipment procurement and hookups
9/14/2007	WRESA	Exec Comm (7), Tech Coord (2), WRESA/SWC (5), TAC (2)	Discuss 501 (c) (3) approve bylaws.
9/17/2007	SW Comm	Tech Coord (7), SW Comm/WRESA (4), Exec Comm (3), Other (10)	Discuss Gates Foundation & foundation funding needs
9/18/2007	Swain Co BOE	TAC	Plan Awareness Conference
9/24/2007	Cherokee CPFdn	WRESA (1), CPFdn (2), Other (1)	Planning S. engagement
10/3/2007	WRESA	WRESA (1), WCU (2)	Planning iTAC Conference

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
10/12/2007	WCU Ramsey Center	WRESA/SW Comm (11), Schools (2000+)	Tech. Application Awareness Conf (iTAC)
10/23/2007	SW Comm	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1), Tech Coord (1), GL Rep. (email)	Tech Coord (8), WRESA/SW Comm (3)
10/31/2007	Swain Co BOE	Tech Coord (8), WRESA/SW Comm (3)	Equipment selection, e-rate planning, 501 (c) (3) recommendations
10/31/2007	Phone, email	Tech Coord (7), WRESA (3), SW Comm (2)	Reuse GL request
11/1-8/2007	WRESA, SW Comm Phone, email	WRESA/SW Comm (6), Tech Coord (7), Other (2)	Budget review. Prepare GL Final Report
11/15/2007	Macon Co BOE	Tech Coord (7)	Plan equipment orders
11/27/2007	WRESA	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (3), Other (3), SW Comm (2)	Plan CPFdn Awareness Appreciation
12/4/2007	WRESA SW Comm	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (3), SW Comm (2), Other (2)	Prepare ARC Report
1/3/2008	WRESA	Tech Coord (2)	Site visit
1/16/2008	SW Comm	SW Comm (2), WRESA (1)	Budget review
1/24/2008	WRESA Phone Email	SW Comm (1), Tech Coord (2), WRESA (3), Other (1)	Plan GL budget revision
1/28/2008	SW Comm	SW Comm (2), WRESA (3), Tech Coord (1), Other (1)	Plan ARC-1 extension request, plan GL budget revision, plan Executive meeting
1/30/2008	WRESA Phone Email	WRESA (3), SW Comm (2), Tech Coord (1)	Prepare ARC-1 extension request
2/4/2008	WRESA	WRESA (5), Other (1)	Planning visit/meeting for WRESA Distance Learning
2/7/2008	Phone	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1), Other (1)	Budget review
2/7/2008	WRESA/ Phone Email	WRESA (3), CPFdn (1), SW Comm (1), Other (2)	Plan CPFdn revision for dissemination grant
2/11/2008	SW Comm	WRESA (2), SW Comm (1), Tech Coord (11), Other (1)	Plan Golden LEAF match, update ARC
2/11/2008	SW Comm	WRESA (2), SW Comm (2), Tech Coord (11), Other (1), Exec Comm (7)	Approve GL match, approve 501 (c) (3) Board, ARC update
2/18/2008	Cherokee County Schools	WRESA (3), Tech Coord (2), Exec Comm (1)	Partner visit
2/19/2008	Clay County Schools	WRESA (3), Tech Coord (2), Exec Comm (1)	Partner visit
2/26/2008	Graham Co.	WRESA (3), Tech Coord (1), Exec Comm (1)	Partner visit

Date	Location	Participants/Representatives/Agencies	Brief Summary/Purpose/Results/Outcomes
2/28/2008	Macon Co	WRESA (3), Tech Coord (1), Exec Comm (1)	Partner visit
3/19/2008	Cherokee Central	WRESA (2), Tech Coord (1) Exec Comm (1)	Partner visit
3/25/2008	WCU	WRESA(1), Tech Coord (1)	Partner visit
4/17/2008	Phone/ E-mail	WRESA (2), SW Comm (2), Other (2)	Plan/prepare ARC ₁ Report
4/22/2008	Swain Co BOE	WRESA (5), Exec Comm (1), Tech Coord (1)	WRESA Staff site visit
4/24/2008	CPFdn	WRESA (1), TAC (1)	Plan application, grant implementation
4/28/2008	Cherokee	WRESA (4)	Funding workshop
5/15/2008	CPFdn	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (8), TAC Com (6)	Plan/organize for application grant work
5/25/2008	Phone/ E-mail	WRESA (2), SW Comm (2), Other (6)	Planning WNC EdNET final deployment and hookups
6/11/2008	WRESA	WRESA (2)	Plan/collect data ARC ₂ Report
6/16/2008	Cherokee CPFdn	WRESA (1), Others (2)	Plan grant implementation
6/18/2008	WRESA/Phone	WRESA (2), Others (4)	Plan Golden LEAF Interim Report
7/16/2008	SW Comm	WRESA (1), SW Comm (1)	Plan mtg/reports
7/17/2008	SW Comm	WRESA (1), Tech Coord/Application (7), SW Comm (1), Others (2)	Review progress plan implementation of CPFdn grant
8/14/2008	SWAIN BOE	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (1)	Site visit/planning
8/14/2008	CPFdn Cherokee	WRESA (1), Others (4)	Plan data collection
8/20/2008	CPFdn SWAIN BOE	WRESA (1), Tech Coord (1), Other (1)	Plan data collection

Appendix B

Note from Karen Cook

From: Karen Cook [mailto:karen.cook@swaincountyschools.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 9:39 AM
To: Bob Byrd
Subject: RE: follow-up information

Mr. Byrd,

I hope you can use some of the following. If not, just disregard.

1. Swain County Schools had all 5 of its schools online with the new fiber in January 2008. The most immediate benefit was the cost savings from recurring monthly leased line costs (\$3,969/month). These funds which would normally have been used for connectivity costs were used to purchase equipment and software for classrooms that enhanced teaching and learning. 10 Elmo presenters, 1 Smartboard, 2 Data Projectors, and Kurzweil software were just a few of the items purchased with this money.
2. With money from the WNCeNet grants, Swain County Schools obtained four edge switches (one for each physical campus) and one core switch which have all been purchased and installed. This upgraded equipment has increased connectivity from outlying schools to the central office from 100 mb to 1 Gb. Noticeable speed improvements have improved connectivity and functionality all the way to the classroom resulting in our teachers having the ability to take advantage of more bandwidth intensive applications such as United Streaming.

Karen