Southeast Missouri University Foundation: AT&T Excelerator Proposal

1. Applicant Organization *(Who Are You?)*

The Southeast Missouri University Foundation is the 501(c)(3) organization designed to accept gifts for all Southeast Missouri State University schools, colleges and affiliated programs. The Foundation obtains and manages resources to **enhance the quality and extend the range of services the University provides to its students and the region.**

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) is a moderately selective, four-year University located in the Mississippi River town of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Although the University serves both the nation and the region, it has a special commitment to southeast Missouri, including the rural counties of Cape Girardeau, Perry and Scott. **The University's service area, in terms of student population and community outreach, includes the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri – the 10th poorest congressional district in the country.** The University's service region stretches from St. Louis to Memphis and includes an economically depressed, geographically isolated region of the Mississippi River Delta. State data indicates that this service area is home to over 35,000 children living in poverty.[1]

Originally a teacher's college, SEMO has been recognized state-wide and nationally for its excellent College of Education, serving as the nation's only two-time winner of the prestigious Christa McAuliffe Showcase for Excellence Award presented by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Additionally, Southeast's education program was one of four nationwide programs cited for innovative curricular development and is fully accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as

[1] Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis. Kids Count MO 2004. http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/kidscount/04/. Accessed July 15, 2005.

one of their 20 national model programs. The Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) operates on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), providing professional development workshops to K-12 educators in 16 rural Missouri counties.

Technology can support the Foundation's mission of **enhancing the quality and extending the range of services** the University provides to its students and the region. **A mobile technology laboratory** including laptops, an interactive white board, digital camera, scanner and printer placed at participating schools in the region would present the University with new outreach capabilities beyond the confines of the campus. SEMO instructors (College of Education), in-service teachers (K-12 teachers at schools in the region), and teachers-in-training (SEMO Education Majors) could collaborate face-to-face and electronically. When educators combine efficient, state-of-the-art technology and research-based teaching practices, the resulting classrooms allow educators and students in any subject at any level investigate and construct knowledge together. The proposed mobile classroom would have wide-ranging and long-term effects, in that it **will benefit a minimum of 300 children and adolescents** attending schools in the University's service area in the first year of operation.[2] **At least 10 in-service teachers and an estimate 900 teachers-in-training** (SEMO Education Majors) would begin to use the mobile technology in 2007 and practices learned would impact generations to come.[3]

Currently, technology is available in the College of Education, the adjacent Instructional Resource and Technology Center, and any one of five open computer labs on the Southeast campus. In each computer lab students have access to Microsoft Office XP, Internet, e-mail,

[2] Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education' School Data and Statistics for Perry County No. 32. http://dese.mo.gov/schooldata. Accessed June 23, 2006.

[3] Southeast Missouri State University Undergraduate Enrollment by College, Department, & Program Spring 2006 for the College of Education. http://www4.semo.edu/insresearch/Enrollment%20Statistics/AY2005-06/Spring%202006/Spring06_4wk10wk_Comparison_UG.htm. Accessed June 21, 2006.

departmental specific programs, and in some cases, the opportunity to borrow equipment such as laptops, video recorders and other digital devices. Teachers-in-training are required to complete an electronic portfolio in order to graduate. As part of the portfolio's completion, SEMO students must incorporate technology in the lessons they teach. Those seeking certification from the state must be evaluated in technology skills by their respective Teacher Preparation Program, based upon the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan (METSP).[4] Annual summative evaluations of in-service teachers include a similar component. **In other words, teachers in this economically depressed region are REQUIRED to prove technology proficiency and experience in order to receive state certification.**

Project Partners will eventually include several K-12 schools in southeast Missouri. The initial / primary partner for the AT&T Excelerator proposal is **Perryville High School in Perryville, MO**. Perryville High School will host the AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory for the initial project year. Perryville High School teachers, along with other area in-service teachers, will receive training focused on integrating technology with research-based teaching practices. These same teachers will host Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) teachers-in-training in their classrooms to provide field experience opportunities in a rural setting.

2. Project Summary *(Where Do You Want To Go?)*

Executive Summary: The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory project will provide technology driven, research-based instructional training to rural Missouri K-12 teachers and University instructors, enhancing the quality of education for area K-12 students and SEMO teachers-in-training.

[4] Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan site, http://www.successlink.us/motechplan/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=70&Itemid=46, Accessed June 23, 2006.

Funding is requested for the establishment of a mobile technology laboratory and educator training program that provides educators in any subject at any level with technology-driven, research-based instructional training. Annetta Crawford, a Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) College of Education instructor with over 33 years of teaching experience will facilitate the training sessions. This training will strengthen participants' understanding of technological hardware and software, and will strengthen participants' ability to implement research-based teaching practices in their curriculums. Participants will hone their skills and apply this new knowledge in the AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory.

The proposed AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory will consist of standard equipment including laptops and laptop cart, a digital camera, scanner, printer, wireless print server, and a SMART Board™ Interactive whiteboard. Perryville High School, a rural school located approximately 33 miles north of the University's campus, will serve as host to the lab.

Participants' initial training will focus on research-based teaching practices such as Constructivism, Cooperative Learning, Differentiated Instruction and findings from Brain Research – components strongly related to learning that is relevant, interactive and tied to "best practices."[5] As the training progresses, participants will gain technology skills in web site design, internet resources, web chats, software, web quests, email and instant messaging. Project participants will incorporate this training in their current curriculum and will share their learning experiences with SEMO teachers-in-training during field experiences and course meetings throughout the year. As a result, SEMO teachers-in-training will also gain first-hand experience in technology-driven, student-centered classrooms. Teachers-in-training will be expected to teach similar lessons as part of course credit. Saturated with these experiences, teachers-in-

[5] Rule, A. and L. Lord, Ed. Activities for Differentiated Instruction Addressing All Levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and Eight Multiple Intelligences. 2003 (ED475517) Manuscript available Full Text from ERIC.

training will graduate proficient in using technology and research-based teaching practices, impacting their classrooms and schools in regions across Missouri and beyond.

A "train-the-trainer" approach will increase and retain the effectiveness of the project. Participants who complete the training will be prepared to deliver site-based training to colleagues either individually or as a large group, increasing the pool of educators who consistently use technology and research-based teaching practices. As part of training requirements, participants will present relevant lessons, recorded and produced for viewing on the interactive project web site. The “train-the-trainer” component of the project is crucial to leaving a lasting impact on teaching practices and, as a result, student performance.

This project strengthens the ability to meet its mission by providing area educators on-site training. The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory will enhance and increase the number of services the University provides to area K-12 teachers, SEMO students and its service area.

The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory project will address the specific needs of *attainable*, *accessible*, and *affordable* technology and training in the University’s service area.

Attainable: Schools in geographically isolated, economically depressed regions often lack the funds to purchase technology equipment needed to keep up with the current state expectations for education. There are currently **no programs** in the University’s service area that provide classroom technology with instructional training for K-12 educators, free of cost. The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory project provides teacher and student access to mobile technology for rural, cash-strapped schools as well as FREE intensive training sessions for educators so that the technology use will be seamlessly integrated into teachers’ curricula.

Accessible: Technology resources in area schools are typically limited to sparse numbers of desktop units located in one room of the school building. The AT&T Mobile Technology

Laboratory project will provide students and teachers with interactive, state-of-the-art technology resources that can come into their classrooms and be incorporated into current lesson plans.

Affordable: Financially strapped area schools have struggled to make technology available to students while providing instructional training for teachers. The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory project will provide area schools with free equipment use, free training, and free technical support. In addition, the host school will be provided funds to cover maintenance and operating costs. To further defray costs of attendance and travel, educators will be paid a small stipend to attend training sessions and serve as the on-site "trainer" for their colleagues regarding the use of technology in the classroom. This collaborative approach will yield exponential benefits for area schools who cannot otherwise afford technology upgrades and training.

The Southeast Missouri University Foundation hopes to reach a minimum of 5 rural K-12 school districts and at least 900 teachers-in-training in the first year. Since most of SEMO's students remain in the service region, the project's impact on the rural student population and the quality of K-12 education in this region will be profound and long-term.

3. Project Specifics (*How Will You Get There?)*

AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory ***Implementation Plan***		
ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME	PERSON(S) INVOLVED
Order equipment outlined in budget	December 2006	Dr. William Bratberg, SEMO instructor
Perryville High School teachers chosen for project	December 2006	Dr. Steve Wolf, Principal Perryville High School
Emails sent to area principals announcing training for teachers	December 2006	Dr. William Bratberg and Annetta Crawford
In-service teachers secured for training / information about session dates and times sent to participants	January 2007	Dr. William Bratberg and Annetta Crawford
Arrival of equipment and set-up in Perryville	January / February 2007	Dr. William Bratberg
Training for participants	January 2006 – August 2007	Training Facilitator
Instructor training utilized in	January 2007 – May 2007	SEMO Education Instructors:

Southeast Education courses		Kathy Conway, Dixie McCollum, Bill Bratberg, Candide Walton, and Paul Watkins
In-service teacher training utilized at Perryville High School / participant schools	January / February 2007 to May 2007	Perryville High School Teachers / participant school teachers
Field experiences of teachers-in-training at Perryville High School and participant schools	March 2007 – May 2007	SEMO Spring semester teachers-in-training
Instructor training utilized in Southeast Education courses	August 2007 – December 2007	SEMO Education Instructors **in addition to other colleagues**
In-service teacher training utilized at Perryville High School / participant schools	August 2007 – December 2007	Perryville High School Teachers / participant school teachers **and colleagues**
Field experiences of teachers-in-training at Perryville High School and participant schools	August 2007 – December 2007	SEMO Fall semester teachers-in-training **(returning and new)**
Data Collection	December 2006 – December 2007	Facilitator, participants, all students

Project Budget: Funds are requested for technology laboratory equipment ($31,578), Teacher Stipends ($12,500), technology trainer compensation ($3,190), and supplies / maintenance ($2,500). The University is contributing the time of Dr. William Bratberg, Project Director, as an in-kind match. (See Budget attachment for a bulleted, detailed budget narrative.)

Sustainability: This project is highly sustainable because of 1) the "train-the-trainer" approach and 2) the mobility of the hardware. After initial purchase of the equipment, the maintenance and training costs can be shared by SEMO and partner K-12 districts. An increase in trained higher education instructors, in-service teachers, and teachers-in-training will result from “train-the-trainer” interactions, and will encourage further integration of technology in the classroom. The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory will be widely used and appreciated by K-12 schools in a 16-county region of southeast Missouri due to the long-standing relationship and ongoing collaboration between the University and these individual schools.

4. Project Outcomes (*How Will You Know When You've Arrived?*)

The AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory project and web site will create new outreach capabilities via interactive web sessions. We expect to see an increase in the number of students impacted and an increase in their test scores. Educators trained in technology-driven instructional training will report an improvement in teaching and technology skills.

The number of program participants (K-12 teachers, students and teachers-in-training) will be tracked on a semester basis. Each semester, at least 75% of teachers-in-training will show an increase in score on their electronic portfolio. Feedback will be sought from participants through the use of surveys. At least 70% of participants surveyed will express positive feedback in terms of interaction with trainers, quality of training, and improved or enhanced skill levels. Participating K-12 students' Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores will be collected. Skill surveys and test scores will be gathered at the end of the 2006 Fall semester (baseline), and then again in 2007 Spring and Fall semesters to evaluate the project.

5. Project Communication (*Spread the Word*.)

Press Release: A press release will be issued to the Southeast Missourian Newspaper (Cape Girardeau), Kansas City Star, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Perry County Republic Monitor (which have a combined circulation of almost 930,000 subscribers). Local television and radio outlets would be also be notified and invited to tour the AT&T Mobile Technology Laboratory.

Website Recognition and Placement: The Southeast Missouri State University interactive website that will be established for the project will include prominent placement of the AT&T logo and links to the AT&T Foundation.