

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Central Wyoming College

**Project Title:** Wyoming PBS Digital Learning Library

**Project Type:** Sustainable Adoption

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### **Executive Summary**

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The focus of this grant project is to develop the Wyoming version of the Internet-accessible PBS Digital Learning Library (DLL) and add video resources on western history, culture, geography, natural resources, and the Native American tribes in Wyoming to the DLL collection. As well, this grant project will produce web-accessible Wyoming-specific social studies curriculum resources for grades 4-12. In-service training will be provided for Wyoming K-12 teachers that introduces the Wyoming PBS DLL and covers best practices in using the on-line video resources and associated on-line student activities, as well as developing lesson plans and student assignments that incorporate video.

The Wyoming PBS DLL will be an on-line collection of short video, teacher guides, and student activities that includes all the curriculum materials in the PBS Digital Learning Library. The library will be available at no cost to all public K-12 schools in Wyoming and to the 7000 teachers and 85,000 students in their homes, as well, if they have broadband access. The video resources – productions from PBS and member stations -- will be provided in short segments that are more classroom-friendly than 30- and 60-minute television programs, and adapted to meet the needs of teachers and students in a 21st-century teaching and learning environment. Most are accompanied in the collection with teacher's guides and interactive student activities. Teachers and students will be able to interact with, assemble, share, and modify the resources to create truly engaging and transformative educational experiences.

Grant funds will be used to adapt existing Wyoming PBS productions to include in the PBS Digital Learning Library. Grant funds would be used to offset any charges for Wyoming teachers and students to use the PBS DLL for calendar years 2010 and 2011. Work that needs to be done by Wyoming PBS to create a local portal to the PBS DLL will also be done under this grant.

Two new social studies curriculum web productions that include video, lesson plans, and on-line student resources will cover tribal governance (a new two-week module in the high school State and Local Government class, adapted from existing curriculum in use at Wyoming Indian High School) and Wyoming social studies (several modules to be used in middle and high school classes, initially focused on Native Americans). Wyoming Indian High School (Fremont School District #14) is the content leader

for the tribal governance production working with Fort Washakie High School (Fremont School District #21); both are located on the Wind River Indian Reservation. A one-day in-service (credited) workshop for Wyoming teachers on the new Native American on-line resources for K-12 Social Studies will be offered by Central Wyoming College.

Finally, public information about the Wyoming DLL on-line resources (targeting teachers, administrators, parents, students and citizens), how teachers can use them, and on-line training for teachers for using these Internet accessible teaching resources will be part of the work covered by this grant. Central Wyoming College (CWC) will offer three sessions of on-line training to in-service teachers that covers using on-line video curriculum materials, specifically the Wyoming PBS Digital Learning Library and the newly produced social studies modules. CWC will also offer an additional workshop featuring the new resources social studies on-line curriculum modules related to Wyoming tribes. All of the in-service training will be offered with teacher recertification credit at no cost to the teacher-student (about 300 anticipated).

Wyoming PBS, working with the Wyoming Department of Education (Distance Learning) and PBS will demonstrate to other PBS stations how rural states can efficiently adapt the PBS Digital Learning Library as a localized service, employ local video and web producers, and use existing productions and stock footage covering history, natural history, and culture to create state-specific K-12 social studies teaching resources designed specifically as Web-accessible curriculum materials. It is estimated that by the end of the two-year project one-third of the public school teachers and students in Wyoming will be first-time classroom users of an on-line video library (30,000 new institutional users). If that is the case, the \$745,000 project will have a cost below \$25 per user. The project is budgeted to create 5.125 FTE new jobs.

The PBS Digital Learning Library (DLL) has been in development for the past year with Wyoming PBS participating since the beginning as one of 18 pilot stations helping to guide the interfaces, schema development, metadata standards, and service description. It contains high-quality multimedia resources from PBS member stations, including WY PBS, and award-winning PBS broadcast programs, all aligned to national standards and tagged for efficient searching.

WY PBS has been in existence for over 25 years and serves the entire state. It produces award-winning video on Wyoming subjects: history, resources, people, culture, government. Wyoming PBS has over 500 hours of edited video available to re-purpose for this project including the 3-hour series Wyoming Voices presenting Wyoming history (produced in 2004). In addition to the finished television programs there are over 75 hours of taped interview of pioneers, Native Americans and historians made in

preparation for the show. As well, there is the one-hour award winning documentary Washakie, Chief of the Eastern Shoshoni Indians (produced in 2002).