ABOUT THE PROJECT

Oklahoma City University (OCU), located in the heart of a lower-income community, will work with residents and partners to address the needs for educational resources, English language instruction, and workforce training. Many residents in this part of Oklahoma City do not have access to a computer or the Internet and have not developed the digital literacy skills that are essential for employment or developing a small business. OCU’s Intergenerational Computer Center plans to address this problem with a multifaceted approach to providing community access to broadband. The project plans to open to the public an existing students-only 20-workstation computer center, construct a new 69-workstation center on campus, and deploy a “mobile PCC” van with 20 laptops to serve the community at large. The computer centers will provide connection speeds of up to 10 Mbps. OCU also plans to offer transportation to the computer centers to those in need.

The Intergenerational Computer Center project also proposes to:

- Leverage the expertise available within the university’s multiple departments and programs, including Nursing, Education, Law, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, for development and delivery of the project’s training component.
- Serve as many as 1,400 community users per week and provide nearly 18,000 hours of training over the life of the project.
- Offer training by university faculty, students, and local volunteers in topics such as professional development for teachers, K-12 math and reading skills, early childhood education, health and wellness, English as a Second Language, consumer protection, and basic computer skills.

ORGANIZATION’S HISTORY

Oklahoma City University, established in 1904, has longstanding relationships with the public schools and organizations that serve vulnerable populations in Oklahoma City. Its technology department currently manages and supports 19 computer labs and 81 classrooms and conference rooms with computer and broadband technology.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- United Way of Central Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Association of Youth Services
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County
- Sunbeam Family Services
- Positive Tomorrows
- Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Smart Start Oklahoma