Albany State University (ASU), a Historically Black Institution located in legislative district 162 and U.S.
congressional district 002 in rural Southwest Georgia, is a comprehensive, coeducational liberal arts
institution which offers undergraduate and graduate curricula. Albany State University is located in
Dougherty County. ASU’s educational program extends to the surrounding counties of Baker, Calhoun,
Lee, Worth, Mitchell, Early and Terrell. ASU provides innovative instructional and professional programs
through its four academic colleges (Sciences and Health Professions, Business, Education, and Arts and
Humanities) and the Graduate School. The institution offers nearly 50 graduate and undergraduate
degrees. The total 2008 Fall Semester enrollment for Albany State University was 4,032 of which 91%
were African Americans and a majority was first-generation college students. ASU’s teaching faculty
consists of 231 full and part-time highly qualified yet diverse individuals. Faculty members are recruited
from broad areas. ASU's Office of Information & Instructional Technology (ASU-OIIT) seeks funding to
provide a Technology Access Center to expand and enhance the access to technology for the
community. Though the southwest region of Georgia offers broadband access through the local cable
and telephone companies, a study by the Public Policy center of Georgia indicates that there is still a
large part of the population who do not use technology because they do not realize the relevance for
their personal and career use. ASU seeks to bridge this gap with the creation of the ASU Technology
Access Center on its campus. This project involves construction of a state of the art technology training
facility to include: fully equipped instructional labs; a specialized emergency operations control training
center; public conference rooms, and public computer labs. The total project cost is $6 Million for
construction, equipment, furnishings and technology integration. The Albany State BRIDGE Access will
include digital access and security surveillance so that the facility is open to the public from 6:00 a. m.
12:00 a. m., on-duty staff will be available to assist visitors Monday ' Saturday 9:00 a. m. ' 6:00 p. m.
ASU-OIIT’s approach to address the technology service needs for the region includes: ' Expanding
existing offerings for workforce development and small business training; ' Providing resource
management training for local farmers seeking to increase their agricultural productivity; ' Offering
technology based training programs for local law enforcement and emergency operation agencies; and ' Providing community training to the public at large in the areas of productivity software tools, project
management and emerging social networking technologies for research. ' Logistics education facility to
advance the ASU collaborations with Marine Corp Logistics Base and Albany Technical College on supply
chain management. This proposed service approach is innovative in that a key component of the
operational model includes virtual learning communities using social networking portals to strengthen
consumer access and use of technology. The Albany State BRIDGE Access will equip all participants with
the use of technology germane to their chosen professions and equip them to pursue their personal career goals. Likewise, not only will work opportunities be created in the Albany State BRIDGE Access, the training programs offered will provide job growth for construction, while also enhancing the professional skills of local workers in agricultural, emergency operations, health care and other general trade areas.