Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: ENTERPRISE CITY OF

Project Title: New Horizons: Enterprise Public Computer Center

Project Type: Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

Enterprise, Alabama, "The City of Progress," is located in the southeast quadrant of the state and is home to Fort Rucker, Alabama, the Home of Army Aviation. While census data shows a population of about 21,000, recent building permit data shows a large growth spurt over the past 9 years. Because of this substantial growth, the City of Enterprise is in need of a computer center that is available to the public with the technology and space needed for the growing city. As Enterprise State Community College continues to grow with the City, ESCC is determined to match the needs of their students as well. This computer center will provide internet access and training to all citizens in and around Enterprise, ESCC, and to all staff at the Medical Center Enterprise. It will allow ESCC to train students to develop three-dimensional learning objects that can be used in a variety of education and training programs. Students who complete the program will be eligible for employment in local businesses and industries and can establish home-based businesses within the City of Enterprise. The City hosts a large flight student population, whose daily job is to study and learn the ins and outs of Army Aviation. The students' need for public computer access has grown as more flight students are sent through school each year. With a limited amount of public computers currently in the City of Enterprise, the City and College cannot effectively and efficiently service the population and their need for Internet access and training. In an effort to address the growing dependence and reliance on fast, efficient Internet access, and the lack of adequate access opportunities in and around Enterprise, the City of Enterprise and ESCC are proposing the implementation of New Horizon: Enterprise Public Computer Center to be located at the existing Enterprise State Community College located at 600 Plaza Drive. The existing computer center will be refurbished and updated and 3D technology will be implemented. This center will address the area’s need for universal web access that should be available to all citizens, medical staff, and students in training at the College and Fort Rucker's flight school. Universal web access will give citizens the opportunity to pursue higher education and expand their knowledge and research skills, which will in turn make them more productive members of society. With the implementation of the interactive three-dimensional objects and environments, ESCC will be able to use 3D objects created by graduates of this program and flight engineers will have access to virtual reality models of equipment and view performance in highly accurate simulations of real-world environment. Also, Emergency Medical Services personnel may use 3D objects to learn proper techniques for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or to evaluate emergency situations. Currently the only public computer access the City of Enterprise has is in the Enterprise Library that houses 11 computer work stations, that are not equipped with up-to-date software and do not have advanced educational programs. The Library experiences such high usage of these mediocre systems, that it has become difficult for them to keep up with the needs of
area residents. The City of Enterprise seeks to approach this need by partnering with ESCC to create a public computer center that offers access to all citizens and students. The center will also offer high speed broadband Internet access at a minimum of 40.00 Mbps, which is faster than the 20.00 Mbps currently offered. This will increase the efficiency and ease of use for Computer Center patrons. The proposed computer center will seat 120 individuals and hopes to target all of the following: Recent high school graduates who have demonstrated an interest in technology and have states a desire to receive specialized training leading to high-wage employment in this field, employees desiring career transitioning due to unemployment or underemployment, military service personnel and family members, employers of local existing businesses and industries seeking to use 3D objects and environments in their training programs, current students enrolled at ESCC, training programs devised for existing businesses and industries, faculty receiving professional development, K-12 students seeking enhanced learning through immersive environments, training and use among Medical Center Enterprise staff, and all patrons within the City of Enterprise. This project will service approximately 47,753 people within the City ranging in ages from 5-95 and ESCC expects an average of 3,289 students per semester. The Enterprise area is home to several military families, school age students, and elderly residents. Enterprise also has a large low-income population who would benefit from the availability of Broadband Internet access. The overall cost of this project, including software upgrades, engineering costs and contingencies is $910,982.00. ESCC and the City of Enterprise has committed to match $210,982.