Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) seeks funding for their innovative program "Expand." TVCC is located in Ontario, Oregon and has six satellite campuses, one which is located in Caldwell, Idaho 35 miles southwest of Ontario. TVCC lays within the Malheur County, the second largest county by square miles in the United States. The population has remained unchanged for the past 10 years. This project will serve many individuals outside of Malheur County as well. Currently, population for all counties that will be served by this grant is approximately 92,275, with 6,747 in Harney, 30,907 in Malheur, 6,917 in Grant, 6760 in Wallowa, 15,983 in Baker, and 24,961 in Union. "Expand" will accomplish the following: 1. Connect TVCC's two primary locations in Ontario, OR and Caldwell, ID with fiber optic connectivity. 2. Builds a fiber-optic ring that would surround Ontario, OR 3. Establish a partnership with Syringa Networks, the largest regional fiber optic network provider in Idaho, to extend their services into two vulnerable communities. The project will provide 12.5 miles of fiber optic giving access to several other anchor institutions within our community. The Ontario School District would get a ring connecting five of their school locations, giving them fiber optic connectivity that would be fully paid for a 20-year period. TVCC and the City of Ontario would also connect to this ring, opening the potential for future collaboration in the area of education, public safety and governmental services. "Expand" will do just that. It will allow the college to increase broadband width and speed enabling the college to be the prominent anchor institution in town with the ability to help other community institutions have access to high-quality broadband. The agreement between Syringa Networks and the other partners (District 8C, City of Ontario, TVCC) will establish what's known as an 'Irrefutable Right to Use' a pair of fiber strands for our own use for 20 years without additional charge. This would mean TVCC would get a fiber-pair (and we only need one pair of strands for all of our needs) between TVCC-Ontario and TVCC-Caldwell, while Ontario District 8C will get a pair of strands in a ring around Ontario, stopping at Aiken and Alameda Elementary Schools, as well as the Ontario Middle and High Schools and the District offices. ' There are two costs listed on Syringa's quote. The first, $1,562,500, is listed as the 'NRC/IRU' which is the Non-recurring Cost (the installation) for building the new fiber-optic network. This is to install 13.5 miles of buried fiber optic cable in Ontario and Caldwell. The second cost is $1,092,000, and represents the Operations and Maintenance for the fiber network over the 20-year lifespan of the project. ' Syringa Networks has partnerships with many of the largest educational institutions in Idaho and Utah, so partnering with them offers TVCC easy network connections to Boise State University, University of Idaho, and the University of Utah. Syringa also provides network connectivity to the two largest medical providers in the Treasure Valley, St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and St. Luke's Health System. TVCC maintains partnerships with most of these same organizations already (not U of U),
so being able to easily create private network connections (rather than utilizing the public Internet) would give us new opportunities to dramatically expand distance education opportunities in areas such as health care and agriculture education. Syringa Networks also allows TVCC, and the communities it serves, access to the Internet2, as well as other large national and international broadband providers. This will allow TVCC to consider and pursue participation in regional and national educational initiatives that we've previously been excluded from because of the limits on available connectivity. The ring design of the network proposed for Ontario is an important feature of the proposal. Ring designs are inherently redundant. This is something that larger tenants (data centers, call centers) find very desirable as they look to expand into a city as it minimizes single points of failure. The corporate history of Syringa Networks makes them sensitive to the rural nature of many of the areas served by TVCC. Three of the regional telephone companies which founded the corporation - Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Midvale Telephone Company, and Cambridge Telephone Company - are within the area that TVCC has historically drawn significant student populations from, so the corporation has a clear understanding of the challenges TVCC faces in delivering distance education to rural communities. Syringa Networks has partnerships with many of the largest educational institutions in Idaho and Utah, so partnering with them offers TVCC easy network connections to Boise State University, University of Idaho, and the University of Utah. Syringa also provides network connectivity to the two largest medical providers in the Treasure Valley, St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and St. Luke's Health System. TVCC maintains partnerships with most of these same organizations already (not U of U), so being able to easily create private network connections (rather than utilizing the public Internet) would give us new opportunities to dramatically expand distance education opportunities in areas such as health care and agriculture education. Syringa Networks also allows TVCC, and the communities it serves, access to the Internet2, as well as other large national and international broadband providers. This will allow TVCC to consider and pursue participation in regional and national educational initiatives that we've previously been excluded from because of the limits on available connectivity. The ring design of the network proposed for Ontario is an important feature of the proposal. Ring designs are inherently redundant. This is something that larger tenants (data centers, call centers) find very desirable as they look to expand into a city as it minimizes single points of failure. The corporate history of Syringa Networks makes them sensitive to the rural nature of many of the areas served by TVCC. Three of the regional telephone companies which founded the corporation - Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, Midvale Telephone Company, and Cambridge Telephone Company - are within the area that TVCC has historically drawn significant student populations from, so the corporation has a clear understanding of the challenges TVCC faces in delivering distance education to rural communities. Syringa Networks also allows TVCC, and the communities it serves, access to the Internet2, as well as other large national and international broadband providers. This will allow TVCC to consider and pursue participation in regional and national educational initiatives that we've previously been excluded from because of the limits on available connectivity. TVCC expects that this project would provide 10 full-time jobs throughout the 36 month grant period and another 50 temporary jobs through the funding period. This would provide a substantial lift to the currently depressed community facing 14% unemployment rates.