



Report on Leveling the Playing Field for Rural Schools Grant

February 7, 2012

In July 2011 the Association of Alaska School Board's Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) was granted \$250,000 through "Leveling the Playing Field for Rural Schools", a grant to support statewide digital learning. Since July, 2011, CDL has worked diligently to support and advance digital learning in school districts through direct contact with school leaders. The activities listed below include highlights of the CDL activities:

Hardware Support

- **CDL Aggregate Ordering Service:** Through the creation of the CDL Store, aggregate ordering opportunities have been made available for districts to combine technology purchases and take advantage of discounted bulk ordering. Over \$2 million dollars have passed through this site, providing discounts not previously available to the 19 districts that participated. Regular ordering periods are established and being utilized by increasing numbers of districts.

Professional Development and Training

- **School Leadership Training and Presentations:** CDL provided three conferences in Sept, 2011, November 2011, and Feb. 2012. Nationally recognized experts in technology and one to one implementations were brought to Alaska for presentations with school board members, superintendents and school leadership teams. Over 75% of Alaska's school board members and 80% of school superintendents participated in these events.
- **District Support and Guidance:** CDL provided needed support, recommendations and guidance to school district leadership in critical components of technology integration: 9 school districts: Alaska Gateway, Copper River, Delta Greely, Kuspuk, Iditarod, Nenana, Tanana, Yukon Flats, Yukon Koyukuk. CDL investigated and promoted cutting edge strategies and applications for instruction through technology with ten school districts adopting suggested strategies into their curriculum and others considering these same options.
- **Teacher Professional Development Opportunities:** CDL organized and developed professional development and technical training services for 9 rural districts. CDL continues to develop working relationships with vendors to develop and provide Alaska-based professional development in use of technology. Over 300 teachers had multiple opportunities for professional development.

Digital Content

- **Alaska's iTunes U - Alaska's Education Resource:** A free digital content repository site was launched for all K12 educational leaders and teachers worldwide to provide Alaska content relevant to schools and instruction. The Association of Alaska School Board's iTunes U site has over 4000 visits per week by educators in Alaska and around the world.

Services

- **Project development and support for sustainability:** CDL assisted two districts (Nome and Northwest Arctic) by determining their needs in critical components for success in implementation of their digital learning projects and helped them to make adjustments where their projects needed improvements.

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