EDC Grant: Final Report (December 1st, 2011)

Project: Faculty Cyber Connections: Building on Best Practices (Phase One)

Principal Applicant

Faculty Cyber Connections Program: FCC Planning Team

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Overview of the project

The overall goal of the project was to create a workbook that is a reflective learning experience for users, and a step-by-step guidebook for those developing Faculty Cyber Connection modules.

As outlined in the proposal, Faculty Cyber Connections (FCC) is a one-of-a-kind online faculty development program and an emerging collaborative initiative between colleges in Ontario, originating within the Easter Region. Modules are designed and delivered (in-kind) by faculty members for faculty members.

Due to the increased popularity of the program, additional modules continue to be developed by faculty members from various colleges, based on themes and needs identified by the regional planning committee. While the FCC program encourages autonomy in terms of the module development process, there was a clear, expressed need for a consistent design approach to better support participants enrolled in the program.

Project Objectives

We are pleased to report that the following objectives have been met:

- Develop a workbook for developers of Faculty Cyber Connections (FCC) modules that supports and guides module developers through a process that takes into consideration the individuality of the module leader ,while incorporating good online course principals and consistency in design

- Further research best practices and support them with an appropriate theoretical foundation and framework

- Develop a design framework that includes module components, design guidelines and resources that reflect the best practices in online design and delivery of training in a collaborative community of practice setting

Educational Findings/Outcomes

In order to meet the project objectives, the following steps were completed:

- Extensive literature review resulting in the development of an expanded annotated bibliography

- Analysis of summary evaluations submitted by faculty participants who successfully completed previously offered Faculty Cyber Connections modules

- Preparation and circulation of short survey to Faculty Cyber Connections module developers and leaders with follow-up analysis

- Extensive review of the content and design of all Faculty Cyber Connection modules from two different perspectives (11 modules were reviewed)

- Preliminary identification of best practices as they relate to the design and delivery of modules currently offered within the Faculty Cyber Connections program.

- Completion of draft workbook and dissemination to FCC Committee members and FCC module developers for feedback using Survey Monkey questionnaire - revised and edited as required

- Preparation of final FCC Online Module Design Workbook, incorporating stakeholder feedback

- Initiation of conference proposals and updates to relevant networks to share results and impact of the project

Budget

Budgeted items included a fee of $1250 each to educational consultants Janet Honsberger and Maureen Wideman for the planning, research, writing and design of the final FCC Online Module Design Workbook. (Total budgeted costs of the project = $2500.) In addition to the funds provided by the EDC grant program, in-kind support of time, conferencing, printing and other resources were provided by FCC planning team members. There was no variance between budgeted and actual costs and no additional costs were incurred.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project (Dissemination of results of the project)

FCC is built on the concept of sharing expertise and resources. Feedback garnered to date affirms the workbook as an extremely useful resource for designers of online learning experiences. The FCC planning team has submitted a proposal to present the workbook at the EDC/ STLHE Conference to be held in Halifax in February 2012. A copy of the workbook will be linked on the FCC program web page. As well, the results of the project will be shared with members of the Ontario Colleges Committee on Human Resource Development and members on the EDC listserv. There are also plans to share the results of the project with the provincial Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology- Curriculum Design Affinity Group (CDAG).