

Introduction

For the last three years the annual \$1.5 million dollar BCcampus Online Program Development Fund (OPDF) has provided grants based on a Request for Proposals (RFP) process out to all BC public post secondary institutions. This funding is increasing the number of online courses, programs, technologies and services available to students in BC's public post secondary system.

The OPDF fund encourages collaborative inter-institutional partnerships to create programs and services available to all B.C. students through the BCcampus portal. All OPDF developed learning resources become accessible across BC's public post secondary system for sharing and reuse.

The OPDF is issued via a call for proposals. Evaluation, selection and award is done by independent professional peer review against a set of criteria based on guidelines expressed in the call for proposals.

On December 17, 2004 BCcampus announced the 2005 OPDF call for proposals. The announcement included a set of guidelines, an application form and a FAQ with a closing date of March 29, 2005. Proposals were invited in four categories:

1. Programs
2. Courses
3. Learning Objects
4. Best Practice Dissemination

Results

BCcampus received a total of 69 proposals. Proposals came in across all four categories with a combined total request of \$5 million dollars. Institutions committed to provide \$2.4 million dollars of matching in-kind funding. All of BC's 26 public post secondary institutions participated in at least one proposal with over 75% of the 2005 OPDF proposals involving inter-institutional partnerships. While all proposals came from public post secondary system institutions, 19 proposals included external partners, helping to extend reach and benefits out to hospitals, non-profits, BC e-learning companies, school districts, industry partners, associations, first nation groups and other key organizations throughout the province. BCcampus extends a special thanks to everyone who participated in these proposals.

Proposals were evaluated April 18 & 19, 2005 by a team of eight reviewers including representatives from University of Northern British Columbia, University College of the Fraser Valley, College of New Caledonia, Royal Roads University, Northwest Community College, Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia and CANARIE E-Learning. The evaluation team selected 16 proposals for award.

Successful Proposals

	Title	Partnering Institution(s)	Outcome
1	Media as Representation & Inquiry by Design: active learning for media and design	Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr Institute, University of British Columbia	Develop courseware learning objects and online support systems for 2 first-year digital media courses - Media as Representation and Inquiry by Design.
2	First Nations Art: the virtual studio	Emily Carr Institute, University of Northern British Columbia	Develop and create 2 new courses - First Nations Digital Storytelling and an online First Nations Art Studio. Courses will be integrated with current online offerings into a fully-developed one year certificate program.

3	Bachelor of General Studies (Police Studies) Online	University College of the Fraser Valley, Justice Institute, RCMP	Adapt 12 courses for online delivery making the entire degree program available online.
4	Continuing Health Care Administration Diploma Program (Fully Online)	Malaspina University College, North Island College	Reengineer 11 existing Continuing Health Care Administration courses for online delivery plus develop 9 additional courses and a program site as a fully online credit based diploma.
5	Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program – Online Program Development	College of New Caledonia, University of Northern British Columbia	Curriculum development and modification of 8 online courses as first phase of moving nursing program online. Includes use of a Palm Pilot (PDA) for portions of the curriculum such as video segments depicting medical procedures and diagnostic situations.
6	BCcampus Rural College Initiative – Associate of Arts Degree in First Nations Studies	Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, College of New Caledonia, North Island College, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College	Inter-institutional collaboration to create an online two year Associate of Arts Degree in First Nations Studies involving conversion of 14 courses to online format and integration with existing 8 courses to create a 22 course program.
7	Principles of Anatomy and Physiology for Health Professionals – Phase Two	Malaspina University College, Camosun College, Health Educators Group	Creation of 8 new modules as part of 2 online courses to satisfy increase in credits per course from 2 to 3.
8	Speech and Language Assistant Course 202: Language/Learning/Literacy	University College of the Fraser Valley	Creation of an online learning course in Language, Learning, and Literacy to serve a number of academic purposes including use in the Speech and Language Assistant Diploma as well as the Child and Youth Care degree.
9	Web Content Accessibility Project	University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Special Education Technology BC (SET-BC)	Develop a set of procedures, manual, and workshops to operationalize web accessibility to online courses for disabled, international and low-bandwidth users.
10	Advanced Diploma in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	College of New Caledonia, Thompson Rivers University, University of Northern British Columbia (planned)	Development of 7 online courses as part of a 10 course one year stand-alone advanced diploma program at the university upper level.
11	Social Software Framework for the BCcampus Community	British Columbia Institute of Technology, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria	Development of a set of resources including templates and best practice guides supporting the adoption and use of social software including blogs and wikis for learning.
12	Interactive Learning Objects for Elementary Linear Algebra	Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia	Development of 20 or more Flash based online learning objects for use in linear algebra courses or other courses that require linear algebra (computer graphics, physics, etc.)
13	Exercises for a Change: Online Manual for Social Change	University College of the Fraser Valley, Capilano College	Development of 30 learning objects suitable for first to fourth year courses with a focus on social change including multi-cultural settings, social activism, interpersonal skills, community needs assessment, and advocacy.
14	Online Course Development for First Nations Public Administration Diploma	Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	Design and implement 6 core online courses for the First Nations Public Administration Diploma as well as two specializations Education Administration and Health Administration.

15	Conversion of Geography 216 (Quantitative Methods) and Geography 222 (Economic Geography) to online format	Camosun College, Capilano College, Malaspina University College, University of Victoria	Convert 2 geography courses to online format in support of a plan for students at post secondary institutions to complete all required geography courses online for transfer to third year geography programs at BC's major universities or to receive an Associate of Arts degree in Geography.
16	Marketing Concentration (or Minor) for Bachelors of Business Administration and Post Bacclaureate Diploma in Marketing	Thompson Rivers University, Okanagan College	Build on existing curriculum by revising 2 courses and developing 6 new online courses to improve marketing distance and online learning education options.

Thanks to all those who submitted proposals and congratulations to the proposal winners. As can be seen from the grant awards, development is moving from a course by course approach to a full program strategy. BCcampus is pleased to support the growing importance of online learning initiatives at all BC public post secondary institutions as the use of online learning scales up. The successful development and delivery of these projects will improve access and mobility for students everywhere in the province.

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