State University System
Building Capacity in On-Line Learning and Student Support
2008-2009 Budget

Total Budget Need: $3M

The Orange Grove - Digital Repository of Instructional Content = $750,000

The *Orange Grove* repository is a joint initiative led by the Florida Distance Learning Consortium on behalf of Florida's education system, in the amount of $750,000, to acquire, develop, store, manage, and electronically share high-quality learning objects and resources among all Florida education professionals. It is an operational digital, online toolbox where PREK-20 teachers and faculty can both contribute to the Repository and use learning resources. A learning object is any digitized item (audio, video, graphic, text, etc.) that can be used, re-used, or referenced during technology-supported learning and/or traditional classroom instruction. This is a joint initiative for the amount of $1.5M, evenly split ($750,000 each) between the community colleges and state university system.

Online Student Academic Support (Ask a Tutor) = $400,000

The "*Online Student Academic Support (Ask a Tutor)*" initiative is a joint effort in the amount of $800,000 - evenly split ($400,000 each) between the community colleges and state university system - to pilot a web-based collaborative academic support system for use by any public postsecondary students whether on or off campus. Online courses and programs must include strong academic and administrative support services to ensure student success, and the existence of such support is a critical consideration in accreditation reviews by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The cost of providing a 24x7 system, available in real time is too high for many institutions to sustain alone. One solution to this problem is to establish a collaborative model where all of our educational institutions work together (perhaps in a partnership with a private provider) to support students statewide at reduced rates than currently available.

Integration of Online E-Learning Catalogs and Enrollment Services = $250,000

The "*Integration of Online E-Learning Catalogs and Enrollment Services*" initiative is a joint effort in the amount of $500,000 - evenly split ($250,000 each) between the community colleges and state university system - to streamline student access to information and services enabling more successful enrollments and program completions in both traditional and distance learning programs of study. Florida Distance Learning Consortium operates a centralized, Web-based listing of online courses and programs that included 10,800 courses last year. However students find program identification, application, admissions and matriculation processes to be uneven and inconvenient, thus creating barriers to successful enrollment. Collaboration to develop a single portal to facilitate marketing and student access to system wide programs, similar to University of North Carolina Online (http://online.northcarolina.edu) is needed.

Building Capacity for Online Delivery of Targeted Academic Programs - $1,600,000

The need exists to expand the online course and program offerings in strategically important academic program areas such as general education, STEM, Nursing, degree completion and accelerated program options. This initiative serves on-campus students as well as remote since 50% or more students take online courses in addition to their classroom-based courses. The necessary expertise and personnel are currently within the SUS, but not evenly distributed among institutions. Grants will be distributed on a competitive basis to institutions or consortia of institutions to fill this need. All course and program development will become the property of the entire state and will be digitally stored in the Orange Grove Digital Repository to ensure access to all faculty, instructors, and instructional development staff.