

**State University System of Florida
Increase to the Florida Distance Learning Consortium
2010-2011 Budget**

Total Budget Need: \$134,250

The requested amount reflects half of the total needed. An equal amount is expected to be requested through the State Board of Education for the Florida College System share to make up the total needed of \$268,500.

Purpose:

1. Provide recoding to stabilize and enhance the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog established in s. 1004.09 F. S. The Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog is an interactive, Internet-based central point of access to distance learning courses, degree programs, and resources offered by public postsecondary education institutions to assist in the coordination and collaboration of articulation and access.

2. Provide ongoing maintenance and development of the Florida central instructional content repository (Orange Grove Digital Content Repository) established in s. 1009.091 F. S. The Orange Grove Digital Content Repository serves as a centralized, online, one-stop-shop location for Florida postsecondary faculty to access, create, store, share, and link to open access, copy right restricted or state and locally-licensed digital resources for classroom instruction and student learning. It is also a key resource for the open access textbook planning initiative that is also required in the same section of statute.

3. Provide ongoing Web development and technical support for the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog and the Orange Grove Digital Content Repository. As a result of 2009-2010 budget reductions, the Consortium lost a critical staff position dedicated to this key operational area. The funds requested will be used to restore this position and the support services necessary for the management and operation of the catalog and repository as required in statute.

Program Description:

In July 2003, the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (the Consortium) was formed by combining the resources of two separate but related organizations: the Florida Community College Distance Learning Consortium (established in 1996) and the Florida Virtual Campus (established in 1998). All Florida public colleges and universities are members of the Consortium and participate in its activities and projects.

The Consortium is building on 12 years of progressive successes in the distance learning arenas. Ongoing efforts include:

- Consolidated purchasing of distance learning products,

- Statewide coordination of distance learning initiatives,
- Hosted learning platforms,
- Electronic distance learning course catalog for student access, and
- Leadership for national and state distance learning initiatives.

The 2008 Legislature placed the online catalog in statute and further required that the Florida Distance Learning Consortium establish operational guidelines and procedures and to make additional enhancements to the catalog. The 2009 Legislature established the Consortium in statute to facilitate collaboration among public postsecondary institutions in their use of distance learning with specific responsibilities in addition to the ongoing management and operation of the catalog. One of these responsibilities is to develop and operate a central instructional content repository.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST:

1. \$44,750 Nonrecurring - Represents one-half of the funds needed to modernize the code base and stabilize the Florida Higher Education Distance Learning Catalog operated by the Florida Distance Learning Consortium.
2. \$42,500 Recurring - Represents half of the \$85,000 annual maintenance fee (20% of original perpetual license of \$425,000) to receive upgrades and continuing support for Equella repository software that allows the Orange Grove Digital Content Repository to function as a cross-platform, one-stop-shop of digital instructional resources including open access textbooks for use by any postsecondary educator in all methods of instruction. This budget item supports the original investment made by the Florida Legislature (2007) and the public higher education sectors (2009) to purchase a perpetual repository software license that provides the underlying structure and functionality of the repository.
3. \$47,000 Recurring - Represents half of the amount needed to restore 1 FTE staff position to support the Consortium's web applications and provide for the management and operation of the Florida Higher Education Online Catalog and the Orange Grove Digital Content Repository.