



TO: Contra Costa County Principals and Educators
FROM: Mac Carey, Director of Technology Systems
RE: **Interactive Community News Grant**
DATE: September 2009
WHO: **K-12 Principals and their Prospective Teacher Teams**

WHAT

- \$500 Grant opportunity funded by The Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation called the Interactive Community News Grant
- Supports technology integration into the classroom environment and the writing process
- A project based activity for students to build writing and publishing skills by creating a newspaper that is comprised of articles from students throughout the county; also supports state language arts standards

WHEN & WHERE

Application available on-line	Wednesday, September 9, 2009	
RFA Workshop (to learn about grant)		
Contra Costa COE 1 st Floor Lab –77 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill	Thursday, September 17, 2009	4:00 – 6:00 PM
Applications Deadline	Wednesday, October 14, 2009	5:00 PM
Grant recipients announced by e-mail, mail & Web	Wednesday, October 21, 2009	5:00 PM
All Events Below held at Contra Costa County Office of Education- 77 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill		
Grant Recipients Orientation **Mandatory**	Wednesday, November 4, 2009	4:00 – 7:00 PM
Getting to Know You Facts to be posted	December 11, 2009	5:00 PM
Desktop Publishing Topics	January & February 2010	4:00 – 7:00 PM
Video Conference with Journalist	February 2010	To be determined
Articles posted to wiki	February 19, 2010 March 19, 2010 April 23, 2010	5:00 PM
Optional Newspaper Publication Deadlines	February 26, 2010 March 26, 2010	5:00 PM
Mandatory Newspaper Publication Deadline	April 30, 2010	5:00 PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Grant Specialists are available to answer any questions regarding the ICN application. If you have questions regarding this grant call or email Amy Geotina at (925) 942-3441, ageotina@cccoe.k12.ca.us or Theresa Gabor at (925) 296-1433, tgabor@cccoe.k12.ca.us. For more information visit the website at <http://www.cocoschools.org/ctag>



**Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation
And
Contra Costa County Office of Education**

Present the

Interactive Community News Grant

Interactive Community News Grant awards from the Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation
(Administered by the Contra Costa County Office of Education) are **\$500 each**.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 5:00 PM

Mail or deliver application to receptionist at CCCOE front desk
(No fax or e-mail)

Contra Costa County Office of Education
77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Attn: Amy Geotina/Theresa Gabor
925-942-3441

Web Page: <http://www.cocoschools.org/ctag>

Examples and More Information: <http://contracostaicn.pbworks.com>

Request for Application Interactive Community News Grant Application

Description:

Turn your classroom into a 21st century newsroom. Recipients of the grant will receive \$500.00 to use to purchase materials or equipment that will support the project.

Goals:

- To increase technology capabilities in the classroom to improve student writing
- To provide technical support and training to teachers using technology in new and innovative ways
- To engage students in a real world application that supports state language arts standards

Overview: This project consists of several key activities: Getting to Know You; Meet the Journalist; writing newspaper articles; and creating newspapers from articles contributed by students throughout the county.

ICN Timeline

November	4	Mandatory winners' orientation at CCCOE from 4-6 PM		
December	11 19	Getting to Know You Activity Post comments to other school sites regarding introductory activity		
January	TBD	Publishing classes		
February	19 26	Articles posted to wiki 1 st newspaper publication (optional)	Blogging Activity Q & A with a journalist	← Choose one or both →
March	19 26	Articles posted to wiki 2 nd newspaper publication (optional)		
April	23 30	Articles posted to wiki Final publication (mandatory)		
May	7	Submitted comments on at least two different papers via wiki comment field		

Getting to Know You Activity

- The first activity is a team building exercise where students research their school and local community and post at least 10 interesting facts about their location on the ICN wiki.
 - **To be posted by December 11, 2009**
- Once the facts have been posted, classes will read the facts for each participating school and leave a comment for at least 2 schools.
 - **To be posted by December 19, 2009**

Suggested Topics:

- Weather and/or Temperatures
- Something that is unique about their town (local history, famous person)
- Landmarks or physical features
- Favorite “hot spot” of students
- Interesting information about the students

Meet the Journalist

Schools may choose whether they wish to participate in a videoconference with a journalist, or blog with a journalist, or both. The videoconference will take place in February 2010. If your site and/or district does not have access to videoconference equipment, we may be able to lend you the necessary equipment. We will also be available to help you set up for the conference.

If the school chooses not to participate in the videoconference, it will be required to participate in a blogging activity with a journalist during January and February 2010. Schools may also choose to participate in both the videoconference and the blogging activity.

The blog will be maintained throughout the project to encourage communication between sites.

Interactive Community Newspaper (ICN) – The 10 Step Process

The Interactive Community News Grant is a project based activity based on the Newsday project in Global Schoolhouse. Students build writing and publishing skills by creating a newspaper that is comprised of articles written by students throughout the county.

- Step 1. Students are introduced to the Interactive Community News (ICN) project by their teacher.
- Step 2. Students participate in an introductory activity (Getting to Know You) to get to know students at other participating schools using web 2.0 technology.
- Step 3. Class participates in the “Meet the Journalist” activity via videoconference or blog.
- Step 4. Teacher supports students through the writing process to produce news articles.
- Step 5. Class selects 6 articles, covering at least 4 mandatory categories, to submit in electronic format to the ICN wiki by **Friday, February 19, 2010, Friday, March 19, 2010, and Friday, April 23, 2010.**
- Step 6. Teacher/students download community news articles that have been posted to the ICN wiki.
- Step 7. Students review, categorize, edit and give credit for the articles that will be used in their newspaper.
- Step 8. Students design their own newspaper using articles from the ICN wiki and save as a portable document format (PDF) or post articles on their school newspaper wiki.
- Step 9. Newspapers must be posted on the ICN wiki (PDF format) or your school wiki by **Friday, February 26, 2010 (optional), Friday, March 26, 2010 (optional), and Friday, April 30, 2010 (mandatory.)**
- Step 10. Classes will read newspapers from other schools and leave comments for at least two different schools by **May 7, 2010.**

Students will participate in the entire process of creating articles, editing, submitting, layout and final publication. Each school will submit a group of articles (at least 6) from the following column subjects:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • World News* | • Health & Beauty |
| • Local News* | • Food - recipes |
| • Science Today* | • Movie & Book Reviews |
| • Editorial* | • Advice Column |
| • People in the News (local personality) | • Daily Cartoon |
| • Sports | • Horoscopes |
| • This Day in History | • Travel |

* denotes required articles

Students will then have the opportunity to choose articles written by students from different schools in the county to incorporate in their final newspaper. The final newspapers may take one of two forms: a traditional paper newspaper posted to the ICN wiki as a PDF or a wiki with different pages for different sections of the “newspaper”. ICN grant specialists will be available to support classes as they create the final newspapers.

At the conclusion of the project, classes will be required to read and comment on at least two (2) newspapers published by other schools by May 7, 2010.

Student involvement is key to the success of this project. To help classes to stay focused we suggest assigning roles to students. A few examples:

- Photographers
- Editors
- Writers
- Researcher
- Graphic Designer
- Layout Designer

Who Can Apply:

Any teacher in a Contra Costa County public school who teaches grades 3-12 is eligible to apply. Only one grant of \$500.00 will be awarded per school site. Up to two teachers from each site may work together to complete the project. Teachers who have previously participated in the project may participate again, but are not eligible for the \$500 grant. Additionally, 50% of the grants must be awarded to schools that have not previously received CTAG (County Technology Academy Grant) funding.

Funding:

The Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation will provide up to \$500.00 to purchase technology needed to participate in the project. Funds could be used to purchase items such as a laptop, desktop publishing software, an LCD projector, document camera, printer, ink and paper. Participating teachers may receive training at the Contra Costa County Office of Education in desktop publishing, using the Internet with students, and additional topics that will support their successful participation in the project.

Glossary:

- **PDF**- portable document format, use Adobe Acrobat to create a PDF
- **Wiki**- an easy-to-edit website that allows users from many locations to contribute and edit content
- **High Speed Network**- ability to transfer files over T1 speeds
- **Audio Stream**- the transmission of audio files over a network
- **Video Stream**- the transmission of video files over a network
- **Chat**- real time communication between two users via a computer
- **Blog**- an online journal of thoughts and questions where visitors can read and comment
- **ICN**- Interactive Community News

Contact Information:

Questions to	Theresa Gabor	tgabor@cccoe.k12.ca.us – (925) 296-1433
	Amy Geotina	ageotina@cccoe.k12.ca.us – (925) 942-3441
	Eileen C Walters	ewalters@cccoe.k12.ca.us – (925) 942-5399
Web Page:		http://www.cocoschools.org/ctag
ICN Wiki		http://contracostaicn.pbworks.com

C. TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL/ COMMITMENTS (counts toward Completed Application)

By initialing each line that follows you are agreeing to comply with the described commitment:

(Principal signs last three lines)

- ____ 1) I will participate in and meet all deadlines for the project, including introductory activity, blogging and/or videoconference, posting comments and completion and submission of a school newspaper.

- ____ 2) I will attend a mandatory orientation meeting, Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, to discuss the details of the project, equipment requests, and to plan the timeline, including plans to spend the \$500.

- ____ 3) Within six months of receipt of funds, I will provide CCCOE with an itemized budget of all expenditures made for this project. *(The teacher retains invoices for two years after the end of the grant cycle.)*

- ____ 4) I will attend at least one professional development class at CCCOE to help in the successful implementation of this project. The class fee will be waived but cannot exceed \$40.00.

Principal's Signature Here



- _____ 7) If the teacher leaves the school during the life of the grant, I will ensure the continuance of the project. I will replace the teacher with another staff member who will carry out the grant proposal as it was written.

- _____ 8) I will keep all equipment purchased with grant funds accessible to the teacher at the school for the life of the equipment and will use them to support ICN project activities.

- _____ 9) I will provide access to on-site equipment needed to complete the project (including video conference equipment, computer labs, printers, etc.)