

Appendix B – Proposal Forms

Proposal Abstract

Proteus, Inc. proposes to provide a regional Community-based Online Learning Program in the San Joaquin Valley. We are requesting a DS-1 (Tier 1) connection speed to accommodate ten existing service and community centers in four counties – Tulare, Kings, Fresno and Kern. Although the region is the nation's most agriculturally rich, because of its rural location, this region persistently faces challenges including limited access to educational opportunities.

Proteus has been serving the San Joaquin Valley for over forty years as a community based organization. Its mission is to improve the lives of the economically disadvantaged population through training, education and community services. The organization began by providing literacy services to the poor in 1967. Since then, it has grown and expanded to now over fifty different programs in over twenty different locations. Annually, the organization serves thousands of individuals. This program, in partnership with the College of the Sequoias, will have a considerable impact in promoting distance education. The exposure, information, and referrals to community colleges resulting from the program will be significant. Access to CalREN will also promote and improve Proteus classes and delivery of programs.

This program will focus on two objectives: 1) college awareness and access and 2) use of high-bandwidth Internet connectivity to enhance existing programs or create innovative programs and services. Included as program activities are: college counseling and referrals, financial aid and eligibility information, curricular improvement of Proteus classes through CalREN resources and exploration of implementing online courses.