



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLUMBUS, Ohio – Engineers in Ohio seeking additional job skills will have an easier time learning new processes and procedures thanks to several new degrees and certificates available on-line. IT and health-care professionals will benefit from these new offerings as well.

The Ohio Learning Network today awarded more than \$2 million in “Emerging Needs” grants. These funds will be used to create courses and degrees available on-line and at a distance.

“For several years, Ohio has not had an adequate number of skilled engineers for the workforce, and in particular, computer science and information technology workers,” said Kate M. Carey, OLN executive director. “Last year, OLN funded programs in computer science and engineering technology and electrical engineering technology. Those degrees are now available through OhioLearns! (www.ohiolearns.org), the state’s on-line catalog of courses and degrees offered by two- and four-year schools. These funds add more programs for Ohioans.”

This year’s recipients of content grants, totaling \$1,865,628 in engineering and information technology, are:

Bowling Green State University, awarded \$382,267 for “Web-Based Transformation of Advanced Technology Education” (BS degree);

Sinclair Community College, awarded \$265,001 for “On-Line Web Programming Certificate;”

University of Cincinnati, awarded \$512,050, for “Technical Workforce Development;”

University of Toledo, awarded \$403,722 for “Online Information Technology: Associate of Applied Science & Bachelor of Science Degree Completion Program;” and

Sinclair Community College, awarded \$302,589 for “On-Line Construction Engineering Degree.”

OLN also awarded several grants in health care. Health-care professionals are in short supply across Ohio. Nurses, medical lab assistants and other health-care workers will soon be able to advance their careers with on-line courses and degrees. OLN funded \$211,035 in planning grants to determine students’ needs and how quickly colleges and universities can meet those professionals’ needs for additional education.

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“Nearly every week a newspaper in Ohio covers the shortage of health-care workers,” said Carey. “These grants will help Ohio colleges and universities meet that pressing workforce need.”

Recipients of health care planning grants are:

Clark State Community College, awarded \$25,000 for “Planning for the Distance Med Lab Program (PDMLP);”

Columbus State Community College, awarded \$15,000 for “Web-based Nurse Aide Training Program;”

Cuyahoga Community College, awarded \$24,096 for “Planning for an Electronic Learning and Teaching Environment for Adult, Incumbent, Underemployed Workers in the Health Careers;”

Lorain County Community College, awarded \$15,000 for “Online Critical Thinking Modules for the Associate Degree Nursing Program;”

Medical College of Ohio, awarded \$20,000 for “A Technology-Enhanced, Multi-Institutional Master of Public Health Program;”

Ohio University, awarded \$30,000 for “Collaboration in the Delivery of Technology-Enhanced Education for Healthcare Providers;”

Ohio University-Zanesville, awarded \$20,000 for “Portable Content Delivery for the Mobile Nursing Student;”

Owens Community College, awarded \$28,935 for “Health Information Technology (HIT) Online;”

Rio Grande Community College, awarded \$15,000 for “Future is Here – Nursing Education on the Web;” and

Sinclair Community College, awarded \$18,004 for “Health Information Management Distance Learning Planning Grant.”

“Ohioans often contact OLN seeking courses to upgrade their job skills,” said George Steele, OLN director of degree completion programs. “The health-care area is growing more quickly than we can meet the need. We recently surveyed 520 Ohioans and health care and business were mentioned most frequently as desired degrees.”

OLN (www.olin.org) is a consortium of Ohio’s public and independent colleges and universities and is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents. OLN helps Ohioans find a college program, assists colleges and universities in the effective use of technology, and helps build partnerships among higher education, schools, businesses and communities.

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