

NEW ORLEANS EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM, INC.



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NOETC NEXUS

What's the value of a consortium?

con-sortium— an agreement, combination, or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member,

As defined by Webster's a consortium offers more diverse resources than can be supplied by any single institution. Yet, a consortium is much more than the resources offered by its individual members. It allows for greater community linkage, a broader perspective of any situation, and the ability to act collectively when it might not otherwise make sense. Consortia might be formed to coordinate K12 initiatives, regional emergency preparedness, or civic responsibility. There are as many reasons to form a consortium as there are consortia in existence today.

To form a viable consortium, an agreement should be reached as to its goals, and a plan developed to obtain those goals in a cost effective manner. Individual institutions might include collaboration or outreach in their strategic plan, which can be best accomplished through a consortium-like entity. Delegated authority may also help the cause of an individual institution, which may eliminate burden and make the consortium a service to the university. The advantages of such a partnership can be seen most clearly in four basic areas: cost containment, academic program enhancement, service to the community, and good public policy.

For example, University of Massachusetts study, tracked each step of the purchasing process. Time and cost were assigned to handle each step, while the outcome determined that every order followed *sixty-eight* distinct hands-on steps and that it cost \$113 to process each order regardless of size. This correlates to more money being spent on the administration of the purchase rather than the good itself. Elimination of such cost

redundancy is, quite simply, a good business practice. Generally, a consortium can create more opportunities for its members rather than isolation and negative autonomy (Uptown, Stephen; University of Tulsa).

A consortium can assume the risk of change for its members because it is the *consortium* that takes the risk, not an individual college.

Working together, consortia can provide the following:

- Shared services, training, distance learning, disaster preparedness
- Shared resources, speakers, equipment, technology, staffing, HR services, workshops
- "College-fest" as a recruitment tool or city orientation
- Cross pollination of ideas & interest
- Elimination of intellectual silos
- Shared courses, creation of interdisciplinary courses
- Cross registration
- Interlibrary loan
- Student awards, internships, or projects
- Economies of scale
- Mentor: administrators, faculty
- Medical, health, and welfare benefits. etc.
- Media (press) resource
- Forum for vital issues; the ability to seek advice
- Serve as a conduit to bring national issues to the educational community
- Lobbying
- Increases operating budget
- Shared best practices
- Grant opportunities
- Represent institutions on community, etc. committees

Resources: <http://www.acl.edu.edu/>; *Trusteeship*, July/August 2004 issue; *Leveraging Resources through Partnerships*, Dotolo, L.G. & Noftinger, Jr., J.B.

Special Programs of Interest

Join *Higher Education Access Television (H.E.A.T.)*, for the following special programming events:

"The Baroness Pontalba" (Nunez Community College) / Tuesday, October 19 / 8:00 PM

"Jim Gabour / Pictures of Music" (Loyola University of New Orleans) / Wednesday, October 20 / 8:00 PM

Only on *H.E.A.T.*

Channel 76, Cox New Orleans

Want to get the word out about your College?

Or perhaps you need a telecourse on the air, but don't have the time to produce one? Call Dave at NOETC for solutions that will work for your higher education institution. [504-524-0350](tel:504-524-0350)

On Cox Cable:

Watch *Higher Education Access Television* on Channel 76; K12 (NOPS) on Channel 8; & the New Orleans Access Television (NOA-TV) on Channels 77 & 78.

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The New Orleans Educational Telecommunications Consortium, Inc. is a nonprofit organization geared toward facilitating research, development, funding, and effective implementation of technologies to support technology-enhanced instruction and related activities. Contact us about charitable contributions toward our educational projects.

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Did you know ...

NOETC is interested in obtaining Fraternity/Sorority programs. Call us! 524-0350!

NOETC is looking for your technology success stories.

If you have an elearning hero on your campus, we'd love to hear about him or her!

NOETC works with IHE on grants

For the first time in years, NOETC is partnering with Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) on grant projects. The first effort is a Louisiana Board of Regents' SELECT grant (Supporting Electronic Learning and Essential Campus Transitions) focusing on the transition from the 2-year to the 4-year college environment. Delgado Community College, Nunez Community College, the University of New Orleans, and Southern University at New Orleans have come together with NOETC to create a repository of re-usable learning objects (RLOs) for the various college success courses offered by each of these institutions. An RLO is a small chunk of educational content that can be reused in various learning environments or courses. The project and the accessible learning objects it will assemble will be called Transitions, Resources for College Success.

The second SELECT grant partners NOETC with SUNO on an e-museum project. Principal Investigator, Redell Hearn (SUNO), will lead the attempt to dismantle barriers to museum studies training in the State of Louisiana by utilizing technology to redesign Collections Management and Museums & Communities. Moreover, virtual museum building and virtual/electronic field trips are included as grant components. The SELECT grant is for innovative elearning (distance learning) opportunities, which foster the development of high-quality courses, modules, and programs that benefit the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

"Successful consortia have frequent, open communication among members, and trust is a common feature of that communication."

*- Johnston, S.W. & J.B. Noftsinger, Jr.
(July/August, 2004)*

Building bridges to tomorrow through the use of cutting-edge technology today

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A Non-Profit Organization Making Educational Opportunities Become Reality!

Looking for collaboration possibilities? Speak to your colleagues at NOETC member institutions.

Current members:
Delgado Community College
Loyola University New Orleans
Nunez Community College
Southern University at New Orleans
Tulane University
University of New Orleans
Xavier University of Louisiana

Contact us about becoming a member of NOETC!

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