

ETEC 579 – Proposal Brief

The Prairiland Media Center specialist will enhance preparation of students to enter the business world by providing a wireless handheld lab. Students will gain experience that approximates real-life business productivity. Students presently have little acquaintance with many tools currently used by professionals to acquire, share and implement information.

The lab will provide students with the opportunity to learn to acquire information for assignments in career classes, share applicable data with peers and implement projects using technology common to business applications. The use of the equipment and software will help students understand how technology serves required efficiencies in business environments.

Funds will purchase 20 Palm TX wireless handheld units, a charging cart and appropriate programs. Software will include the Microsoft Office Suite and learning programs targeted to specific disciplines: like Imagimath and Inspiration (a graphic organizer) for handhelds. Teacher training on handheld technology and project based learning through TCEA or other entities will also be included. The intent is that this will be an ongoing project, upgraded as new technologies become available.

Prairiland is a rural district whose students are primarily from low socio-economic status and have little access to business technology. If graduates are to compete with students from wealthy urban schools in career and higher education, they need greater access to and more productive experience with handheld technology.

The specialist of the Prairiland Media Center will be the project director, with assistance and guidance from the principal and the training director. The media specialist will maintain the equipment, research, purchase and install software, and provide teachers with help in designing projects for use with the portable handheld lab.