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SCC receives grant to enhance distance education at three learning centers

Lincoln, NE (Feb. 5, 2018) – Southeast Community College’s learning centers in Falls City, Hebron and Plattsmouth will receive more than \$240,000 this spring to expand the distance learning capabilities in those regions. Half of the money is from a federal grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, while SCC will provide the rest in matching funds.

“It will provide more access to education in the rural communities,” said Dr. Denise Schlake-Ideus, dean of community services and extended learning. “There will now be more opportunities for the campus to connect to these locations.”

Schlake-Ideus says this is the first grant SCC has received from the USDA. Three of the six SCC learning centers were chosen for their potential of growth in a rural setting.

As part of the grant, SCC will purchase equipment to create distance-learning classrooms in the three communities, as well as robots and simulation mannequins, to make the experience more lifelike.

“Everyone can stay in their communities, saving time, money and travel and yet still have a connection,” said Jill Sand, dean of health sciences. “People will be able to improve their skills and add to their marketability and stay in their community.”

The learning centers are part of a strategic plan created by the College to serve the educational needs of the communities within the 15-county service area. Each learning center offers credit and non-credit courses, as well as business and industry training. In addition to Hebron, Plattsmouth and Falls City, there are centers in York, Wahoo and Nebraska City.

This grant is part of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program. The goal is to use telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.

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SCC plays a vital role for our communities in southeast Nebraska by bridging the higher education affordability gap and filling a need for a qualified workforce in Nebraska. SCC empowers and transforms its students and diverse communities by offering more than 50 programs of study on campuses in Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford

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