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Video Conference on Oklahoma A+ Schools: December 14, 2001

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The DaVinci Institute, "Video Conference on Oklahoma A+ Schools: December 14, 2001" (2001). *Minutes and Agendas*. 6.

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The DaVinci Institute
Video Conference on Oklahoma A+ Schools
December 14, 2001
9:00 am-11:00 am
Minutes

A OneNet video conference took place on Friday, December 14, 2001 from 9:00 am -10:45 am at the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education. Those in attendance were John Clinton, Director, Oklahoma A+ Schools; Mark Parker, President, Da Vinci Institute; Susan McCalmont, Director, Kirkpatrick Foundation; Melissa Vincent, administrative Assistant, Da Vinci Institute; Terri Collins, Director, Barthelmes Foundation; Joe Hull, Director, Barthelmes Foundation, Pamela Hodges, Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council; John Brown, Director, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Marie parker, director, Great Expectations Arkansas; Vincent Marron, Director, A+ Schools North Carolina; Gerry Howell, Program Coordinator, A+ Schools

Susan McCalmont called the conference to order, requested for Mark Parker to facilitate the meeting, and then introduced Bill Johnson, the OneNet representative for the Oklahoma Regents to discuss OneNet and its capabilities to aid in the promotion of Oklahoma A+ schools.

OneNet discussion – Mr. Johnson explained that the capabilities of OneNet varied from state to state. He informed the participants that today's conference was being conducted through H.323 which was also available in at least 1000 if not as many as 2000 classrooms in Oklahoma. He also reported that Oklahoma is the busiest IP based network which can allow for instantaneous K-12 meetings easily and economically. He added that both North Carolina and Arkansas are internet 2 facilities which will enable hook ups to help facilitate instruction. Mark Parker inquired as to the capability of all the schools to observe and see what is going on with Oklahoma A+ schools programs and Mr. Johnson responded that any state with SEG-P (Shared Educational Group Participation) will be capable of hook up and that there is an increase in technology with a bright future for good quality and low cost.

Regional Meetings – John Clinton gave a report on the Meeting that was held in Seminole December 11, 2001 at Seminole Junior College. Present at the meeting with John were Dan Boren the director of SJC Foundation, principals and superintendents from around the area, and a representative from North Carolina. The information was well received and there is great interest in the program.

Other regional meetings were held and John gave a report of the number of participants: Ardmore-15; Bartlesville – 55; Norman – 60; Seminole – 30; Tulsa – 35; and Woodward – 7 for a total of 162 participants in the meetings. He added that some meetings actually had more attendees than reported due to failure to sign in. Following the meetings John received numerous calls of interest from others who were unable to attend and will be meeting with Norman again today Friday, December 14, 2001 with 19 other schools slated to attend.

Susan added that Bill Whitesell informed her that Oklahoma Public Schools will vote on a reform Monday, December 19, 2001 that will make arts education a focal part of the education reform for the year 2002.

School Selection Advisory Panel – John Clinton put forth suggestions for members of the advisory panel which included: Randall Rayburn of COSA, Paulette Black –Arts Council, two representatives from North Carolina, a representative from Great Expectations Tahlequah, Smith

Holt – Center for Science and Arts (Stillwater), representatives from Oklahoma (rural/urban) not part of applying schools, a representative from the research team and Glen Henry who will be the State Department of Education representative. Joe Hull suggested that someone be included that would represent the interests of Northeast Oklahoma, possibly Sapulpa since they are not applying for inclusion in the program. Gerry Howard emphasized the necessity of acquiring gender, racial, and geographic diversity on the panel to avoid any potential landmines. John replied that he felt the gender and race equity were good but they may need to revisit the geographic equity. Vincent Marron suggested that they include some political representatives such as a member of the general assembly or the senior council for education in the Governor's office. This would enable the profile to appear more educational than arts based. Suggestions also included a member of the Principles Leadership Program and/or the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

John said it would be necessary to have the panel finalized between December 26-January 1 for presentation at the January 11 meeting for approval. The deadline for applications is January 18 and the panel must be approved prior to this deadline. The panel will meet in late January (29, 30, and 31) and Vincent and Gerry will hopefully be available to attend on an advisory capacity. The announcement of the accepted schools will be February 7, 2002.

School Selection Criteria – Marvin Lamb was not available for the video conference but will be working on research questions and the development of a matrix with the research team later this afternoon (1:00 pm). Discussion was held concerning the focus of the questions and matrix in North Carolina. Vincent responded that the goal in North Carolina was different and therefore the criteria would not be adaptable. However, Gerry will send a copy of the program and goals for review. Joe Hull replied that they would like to experiment with questions prior to seeing the results of North Carolina's research. Mark Parker said the desire to see North Carolina's research was not to replicate the goals and/or the program but to "replicate the success." In viewing the research of North Carolina it would be possible to see what did not succeed and hopefully avoid avenues that research has already deemed as unsuccessful. Vincent agreed that would be a benefit to Oklahoma and also recommended that the sample questions be open ended.

Oklahoma A+ Fellows – John Clinton reported that there are 35 potential candidates that have expressed interest in becoming a "fellow" in the program. As of now, there is no biographical information on any of them. It was suggested by Vincent that only 10 or 15 be selected to shadow and then one year later they would head the program. John asked if there were any other suggestions for additional potential fellows and no one offered any others feeling that there were ample applicants. Vincent felt that selection of the fellows was premature at this stage. He suggested having them meet in January with those from North Carolina and discuss their responsibilities then select them prior to the retreat. A date of February 26 was slated for the selection of "fellows."

Curriculum Development and Training – Vincent discussed the plans for the upcoming training of the participants in the Oklahoma A+ programs. January 13-16 select members of the Oklahoma A+ program will visit North Carolina to see the A+ programs in action. They will visit Greensborough and/or Raleigh. The retreat will include an introduction night, two visits, and a summation to evaluate and answer any questions. March 21-24 will be the first training for the Oklahoma A+ fellows with Vincent and Gerry. This will be followed by a Pre-Institute March 25-27 involving the fellows and teams from Oklahoma A+ Schools. April 22-24 will be a second Pre-Institute training session. The second training session for the fellows will be May 3-6 with Vincent and Gerry. The summer institutes will be held in 3 –one week increments beginning on June 9, June 16, and June 23.

Barthelmes Foundation Proposal- Mark Parker asked Joe Hull and Terri Collins to present their proposal to DaVinci. Joe Hull reported that due to receiving budgetary input just prior to this meeting he will have to ask to have the proposal tabled until a later date. He stated that he would have the proposal ready by Christmas.

Oklahoma A+ Schools Funding – Susan McCalmont reported that no additional proposals for funding were presently being written. However, it was reported that an intern would be beginning with Kirkpatrick at the beginning of the year and her prime task would be to search out potential funding for the Institute. Susan also reported that Sarkeys, McEwen, Cox Cable, and Sonic had all requested proposals and that the only one that was priority in regards to deadlines was the McEwen request. She stated that this would be taken care of prior to Christmas break.

Oklahoma A+ Schools Budget – Susan McCalmont reported that the contract between DaVinci and Kenan Institute was near finalization and would be complete by mid to late January. She asked Vincent to present any outstanding expenses that may be outstanding. She also reported that the only expenses for the summer institutes would be \$1500 a day for security and \$15 per day per participant for meals. The Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics has graciously expensed the other costs as an in-kind donation.

Other Issues of Concern – John Clinton reported that there has been no change in the circumstances concerning the project coordinator position. Gerry Howard suggested that the title needed to be changed to give more credence to the position, possibly Director of Programs and Curriculum Development. She thought that coordinator made the position sound like someone who would carry out the details prescribed by the Director. Questions arose concerning who would be responsible for selection of the new director. Mark Parker assured everyone that even though DaVinci is not an employment organization they have an agreement with UCO to be involved in the selection process and that there will be three finalists brought to the Institute prior to any final selection for employment.

Adjournment – Mark Parker adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.