

Podcasting Across Nebraska

2006-2007 Application

Applicant:	Aurora Public Schools	Hamilton County Extension	Edgerton Explorit Center
Address:	300 L Street Aurora, NE 68818	P.O. Box 308 Aurora, NE 68818	208 16 th Street Aurora, NE 68818
Contact Name:	Michelle Sutter	Jeanette Friesen	Chad Johnson
Phone Number:	402-694-6966	402-694-6174	402-694-4032
E-mail Address:	msutter@esu9.org	jfriesen2@unl.edu	chad@edgerton.org

1. Is this application from:
 A single community
 A single community with multiple partners
 A regional group of communities

Participating communities and organizations
Aurora Public Schools
Hamilton County Extension
Edgerton Explorit Center

Who will act as the lead for this project?
Aurora Public Schools—Michelle Sutter, High School and Elementary Resource Teacher

Where will the equipment be housed?
Aurora High School

2. Why is your community or region interested in podcasting?
Podcasting is growing in popularity among World Wide Web users, which allows Aurora to further promote what it has to offer. Podcasting also allows our community to stay current with the latest advancements in technology.

3. Please describe how your community or region plans to use audio and/or video content to promote tourism, events, recreation, historic sites, and other activities. Please include project goals (i.e., to promote the county fair) and expected outcomes (i.e., an increase in visitors from outside the county) for at least two podcasts which will be made available over the Internet.

Region Plan:

Our plan is to foster a partnership between the school system, the County Extension Office and the Edgerton Explorit Center in order to produce podcasts that will feature some of the activities that the Hamilton County area has to offer. Students will research activities provided by the Hamilton County Extension Office and also the Edgerton Explorit Center and then co-produce podcasts activities that will inform others.

Project goals:

Our goal would be two-fold. First, we will produce podcasts that promote Hamilton County Extension activities such as the Hamilton Leadership Tomorrow Program, 4-H Career Development Planning Program, 4-H Public Speaking Competitions, the Hamilton County Fair, offerings for Building Strong Families and many more. We will also produce podcasts that promote the Edgerton Explorit Center by allowing students to take a field trip to the Center to document the things others could look forward to seeing if they were to visit the Center for themselves.

Second, our goal is to heighten student awareness of and involvement in some of the opportunities mentioned above. We want others to become more aware of resources available to them and we can do this by becoming more educated ourselves.

Expected outcomes:

We plan to see a rise in the amount of participation by people within the community and by people outside the community. We also envision positive relationships between the school and the business community based on the partnership that has been formed and increased awareness.

4. How do you plan to promote the podcasts created through this project?

The podcasts will be linked to the school website, Extension website, the city of Aurora website, and the Edgerton Center website. The newspaper would feature information related to the podcasts, while we also utilize the local cable television channel by featuring an advertisement. The school newsletter would feature an article and flyers distributed by the Chamber of Commerce would inform people of the podcasts as well.

5. Please list the regional or community Web sites which could link to the podcasts produced through this project?

-www.aurorapublicschools.org

-www.cityofaurora.net

-www.hamilton.unl.edu

-www.edgertoncenter.edu

6. Will this project involve youth? If so, how will they be involved?

Youth will play an integral part in this project as students from Mrs. Sutter's high school and elementary classes will have an equal role in producing the podcasts. Youth will research the activities Hamilton County has to offer through the Extension Office and the Edgerton Explorit Center and will also visit the facilities to experience first-hand the opportunities within the community.

7. Are any other uses of podcasting within your community or region in place or planned?

At this point, podcasting has not been done within our community to promote Hamilton County. Podcasting is, however, something that we have all researched as a useful communication tool. The Aurora Elementary and High School are in the beginning stages of podcasting and this project would allow students to have the chance to experience further podcasting opportunities by creating authentic productions that would support their community.