



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- 12/4/18

WIDERNET PROVIDES TOOLS FOR TECHNICAL LITERACY IN TEXAS PRISONS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. -- WiderNet, a nonprofit organization dedicated to information accessibility, is partnering with Texas prisons to provide the Corrections Off-Line Education Platform to inmates. The COEP provides the inmates with educational information to build their technological skill sets while limiting access to contrabanded materials. The goal of the COEP is to facilitate an easier transition back into the workforce after time in a correctional facility.

Cliff Missen, director of the WiderNet Project, says: "Texas has taken the lead in the nation for demonstrating digital technology in education while maintaining a safe and secure environment in prisons. Most of the inmates will re-enter society and they need to have these technological skills, or they will be at a severe disadvantage while looking for employment."

The COEP is a version of the eGranary Digital Library, a database that provides educational resources through the creation of local area networks in developing countries and other global locations. The dynamic nature of the product allows users to access digital materials such as TED Talks, Khan Academy tutorials and other database materials. By simulating an internet-like experience, the eGranary bridges the education disconnect on both national and global levels.

Founded in 2000 as The WiderNet Project, WiderNet is now affiliated with the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. WiderNet's eGranary libraries have

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WIDERNET PRESS RELEASE – Page 2

provided more than 1,000 institutions lacking internet access with educational resources. For more information, visit the website at www.widernet.org/coep.

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