

Project Abstract
“Whooping It Up In The Arts and Sciences Through Distance Education”
(Whoop It Up)

The “Whooping It Up in the Arts and Sciences Through Distance Education” (Whoop It Up) looks to bring two of Nebraska’s great resources, the annual whooping and sandhills crane migration on the Platte River and the Audubon wildlife collection at the Musuem of Nebraska Art (MONA) into K-12 classrooms through distance education.

The Platte River offers excellent opportunities for bird watching throughout the year, but the most popular time to visit, by far, is during the spring migration of whooping and sandhill cranes and waterfowl. This is the only place in the world where so many cranes gather in one area and, each year, thousands of bird watchers and other people visit the Platte to experience this incredible spectacle. - http://www.whoopingcrane.org/html/bird_watching1.shtml

Enjoy . . . the art of Nebraska! Like no other museum, MONA, home of the state’s official art collection, focuses on the art of Nebraska and Nebraska artists.

See . . . art representing the work of artist-explorers and artists of today. MONA also displays a collection of works by John James Audubon focusing on indigenous Nebraska wildlife.

Explore . . . all eleven galleries and you’ll see Nebraska in a whole new way! - <http://monet.unk.edu/mona/info1.html>

The Platte River Audubon society estimated that over 14,000 visitors participated in the February-March 2003 viewing season (<http://www.audubon.org/states/ne/ne-aboutus.htm>) and MONA reported over 18,000 visitors in 2002. (<http://info.neded.org/stathand/msect4c.htm>) As both the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust and MONA are located in central Nebraska within easy driving distance of TVDEC member schools, schools have a great educational experience for students at their doorstep.

Even though both of these resources are within easy driving range for area schools, both sites have had a limited number of K-12 visitors. Many schools are simply unaware of the educational opportunities that are available and shrinking school budgets have limited the number of field trips that are taken.

The “Whoop It Up” project creates a partnership between the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust, Museum of Nebraska Art, University of Nebraska - Kearney, ESU 10 and 11, and the Tri-Valley Distance Education Consortium. This partnership will seek to meet the goal **“To create and share enrichment lessons to in the arts and sciences to K-12 students”**.

Schools participating in ‘Whoop It Up’ include Alma, Amherst, Axtell, Bertrand, Cedar Rapids, Centura, Cozad, Elba, Elm Creek, Elwood, Franklin, Fullerton, Gibbon, Gothenburg, Greeley-Wolbach, High Plains-Clarks, Holdrege, Kearney, Litchfield, Lexington, Loomis, Minden, North-Loup Scotia, Ord, Overton, Palmer, Pleasanton, Ravenna, Shelton, Spalding, St. Edward, St. Paul, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller, and Wilcox-Hildreth. Private schools located within these communities have been notified of the project to determine their interest in participating in the project.