

## Computer and Networking Donations for African Universities

The WiderNet Project collects donations of late model used computers and networking equipment to ship to partner universities in Nigeria.

Hundreds of computers and pieces of networking equipment have been provided to our partners thanks to the generosity of many in our community.

Donations are tax-deductible and always welcome.

### Major Supporters

MacArthur Foundation  
Microsoft Corporation  
USAID  
US Department of State  
Red Hat, Inc.  
LearnKey, Inc.

[www.widernet.org](http://www.widernet.org)

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- ◆ **Partnership**
  - ◆ **Productivity**
  - ◆ **Participation**
  - ◆ **Practical**
  - ◆ **People-Centered Computing**
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### WiderNet Programs

- **Building University Linkages**
- **Coaching Decision Makers**
- **Providing Technical Training**
- **Hosting ICT Professionals and Planners**
- **Computer and Networking Donations**



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

## Overview

The WiderNet Project is a non-profit project based at the University of Iowa that aims to improve digital communication in developing countries. Our current focus is in Africa and our closest ties and connections are with universities.

The WiderNet Project focuses on the improvement of educational communication systems in Africa by providing faculty, staff, and students with consulting, coaching, and training in a wide variety of computer-related topics.

Our goal is to help our partners identify and implement practical, affordable, and productive uses of local area networking, instructional media, and the Internet.

## University Linkages

The University of Iowa has been building academic relationships with universities in Africa for over three decades.

Both WiderNet Project directors have traveled extensively around Africa. Fourteen University of Iowa faculty members and dozens of students have visited African universities in the past ten years.

The WiderNet Project has built upon well-established university linkages and addresses specific issues of digital development.

In years to come, we desire to deliver courses, conduct mutually beneficial research, collaborate with our African colleagues, and provide our students with unmediated interactions with their peers in other cultures.

## Coaching University Decision Makers

Our Decision Maker program involves providing technical, financial, and organizational coaching for high-level administrators at Nigerian universities who are installing their institution's first information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure.

In conducting workshops, one-on-one consulting, and site visits, we aim to assist our partners to gain the expertise to be "second time buyers" the first time around.



## Training Computer Technicians

Training computer technicians at Nigerian universities to build and maintain computer networks is a cornerstone of our efforts.

Utilizing a wide array of computer-based training materials – including CD-ROMs filled with articles, lectures, tutorials, and other materials drawn from the World Wide Web – project participants receive a great deal of training at their desktops as well as at in-country trainings at various universities around Nigeria.

The WiderNet Project staff also works with U.S. private sector partners who provide training materials, software donations, low-cost licensing, and/or technical support to Nigerian universities.

Such partnerships have been established with the Microsoft Corporation, RedHat, Inc. and LearnKey, Inc.

We also recruit interested U.S. technical volunteers and trainers and match them with African counterparts.

## Hosting Visiting Professionals

By visiting the University of Iowa for hands-on training in our networking lab and one-on-one coaching with their university counterparts, ICT planners and implementers can gain a world of information in a short amount of time.

These linkages bring scores of visiting faculty and staff from African institutions to the University of Iowa.

Our visitors bring culturally diverse professional perspectives that benefit the faculty and students as well as the general community.

These linkages provide us the opportunity to continue as a visible forerunner in this field by opening doors to manifold research and collaboration opportunities as well as bringing dozens of prominent Nigerian academics to the University of Iowa.

For more details, see:  
[www.widernet.org](http://www.widernet.org)