

8. iCREATE COURSE – SOUTH LEARNING CENTRE

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to a request from the South Learning Centre for funding to enable unemployed students aged 15-24 to participate in the Centre's iCreate course (as suggested by the Board's E-Communication Committee meeting held on 18 June 2004).

BACKGROUND

iCreate is a multi-media digital design course, designed and owned by NatColl, but which the Centre has purchased the rights to offer. It is an opportunity for students to explore cutting edge software (macromedia software has been purchased and installed on all machines in the learning lab), while developing creativity and rekindling the love of learning. It is an inter-generational and collaborative course where students work towards completing a digital portfolio of their work suitable for submission to tertiary based courses as evidence for RPL National Certificate level 3.

There are four modular courses and each course has an enrolment fee of \$150. This figure still does not cover the actual costs involved, but our staff are committed to ensuring this can be offered to members of the community who would not normally be able to attend or pay for the full time course offered through NatColl, whose charges are \$995 for a full year.

Each course is ten weeks' duration and runs from 5.30pm to 9.00pm every Monday evening, with a lab session on Thursday evenings and one full Sunday for creative application. This requires a high level of commitment on behalf of the students and equates to approximately 50-60 hours of hands-on work.

The four modules are:

- Digital still photography and Fireworks
- Digital Illustration and Freehand
- Digital video photography and movie making
- Document design and production

Criteria

- Students aged 15-24 years of age
- Students still at school or not in paid employment

Learning Centre staff believe this course has the ability to ignite passion and it is expected that the students for whom this course would be targeted, would not be in a position to pay. Community Board funding will ensure at least a few students have an opportunity to participate. It should be noted that the Centre has 14 students enrolled in the course at present. There are two genuine cases of financial hardship where the parents have been to see staff privately to negotiate payment options.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board consider allocating \$1,200 from its 2004/05 Discretionary Fund to enable either two students to complete the year long course, or eight students (ie two per term) to complete one of the four modules on offer.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be supported; the funds to be used at the discretion of the Learning Centre staff.