

Small Business Development Center News

We Build Better Businesses!

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In Partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS SBIR GRANT TO POLYHEDRON LEARNING MEDIA

Polyhedron Learning Media (PLM), Inc., a Wheeling-based educational multimedia development company, received a Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) grant from The U.S. Department of Education.

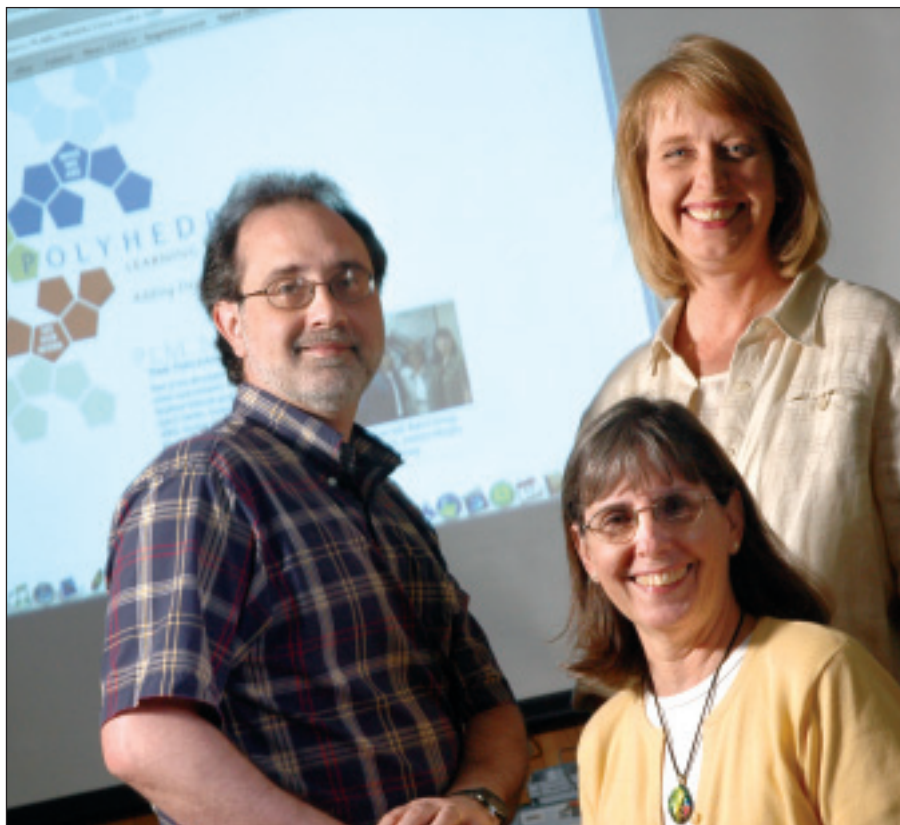
The SBIR program is a federal initiative that provides more than \$1 billion in research and development grants and contracts each year to small businesses to develop new products and services based on advanced technologies.

The West Virginia Small Business Development Division (WWSBDD)

serves as the centralized source for information and assistance regarding the SBIR program. PLM worked with Lisa Raines, WWSBDD SBIR program manager, to apply for two Phase 0 planning grants, which they received. SBIR Phase 0 grant funds help companies prepare competitive proposals for Phase I and Phase II awards.

PLM's grant will help the company develop a prototype of an online, college-level introductory physics laboratory course. The lab would include brief video components and interactive simulations. Work on the project began in June and will continue through December 2006. PLM is seeking funding to expand the project,

which will be marketed and distributed by Thomson Learning, one of the largest college textbook publishers in the country.



Dr. John Baro, Rhonda Baro and Dr. Jeanne Finstein (seated) are working with other PLM staff to develop an online, college-level introductory physics laboratory course.

“We’re very pleased to have this opportunity,” said Dr. Jeanne Finstein, PLM president. “We’ve been in business less than two years, and this is already our second major federal grant.”

Other key personnel on the project are Dr. John Baro, PLM director of software development; Rhonda Baro, PLM creative director; and Russ Sellers, science content specialist. The PLM team also will work closely with Dr. David H. Loyd Jr., professor of physics and dean of the College of Sciences at Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.

Founded in July 2004,

Polyhedron Learning Media has already achieved success. Its first major project was the design and development of a space exhibit for the Children’s Museum of the Ohio Valley.

PLM’s largest project to date is currently under development in partnership with the West Liberty State College SMART Center. This two-year, NASA-funded grant is to develop multimedia curriculum materials for the NASA Explorer School Program, a nationwide program that targets math and science at the middle school level.

For more information on Polyhedron Learning Media, visit www.polyhedronlearning.com or e-mail info@polyhedronlearning.com.