EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

Arizona Western College • Division of Allied Health • Wellness & Physical Education (WPE)

2026 AWC INNOVATION FUND • PROJECT HORIZON

TO:	**Jane Fisher**, Coordinator of WPE Programs • **Ken Grant**, Director of Allied Health
FROM:	**Coach Alan Pruitt**, Adjunct Faculty & Curriculum Architect (WPE Dept.) • alan.pruitt@azwestern.edu • +1.928.421.1050
HOST SPACE:	**AWC Regional Center for Emerging Technology / Entrepreneurial College** • Date: October 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	**2026 AWC Innovation Fund Application — *Project Horizon: Scaling Digital Accessibility via Automated Curriculum-as-Code* ($8,850 One-Time Request | $0.00 Recurring Cost)**
ADDENDA:	Project_Horizon_Vendor_Quotes.pdf (10/07/2026) • Project_Horizon_Vendor-agnostic_Technical_Specs.pdf • **Pitch Video:** https://youtube.com/shorts/IEUsuTJr3Jc

In Plain English: Before you read the details below, here is the short version: **Project Horizon is an $8,850 one-time AWC 2026 Innovation Fund application that establishes an air-gapped, zero-trust digital accessibility and Curriculum-as-Code R&D testbed housed in the AWC Regional Center for Emerging Technology / Entrepreneurial College.** It automates 100% of baseline federal ADA Title II (WCAG 2.2 AA) compliance and batch .imscc Canvas package auditing at the build layer while benchmarking the new **W3C WCAG 3.0 Accessible Perceptual Contrast Algorithm (APCA)** and **Norteño-Spanish linguistic screen-reader auditing** on student mobile devices under 100,000+ lux Yuma sunlight. Every hardware item is backed by **three competitive, tax-exempt PO quotes under State of Arizona Cooperative Contracts (Mohave #22L-CAMNET3-0121, Mohave #22L-CVOE2-0121, NASPO ValuePoint, and SLG)**—requiring **zero production Canvas LMS integration, zero student PII exposure (100% FERPA-safe), zero stipends, and $0.00 in recurring costs**.

En palabras sencillas: *El Proyecto Horizon solicita $8,850 (pago único respaldado por 3 cotizaciones cooperativas del Estado de Arizona, $0 en costos recurrentes) del Fondo de Innovación AWC 2026 para instalar un laboratorio aislado de accesibilidad digital (ADA Título II, WCAG 2.2 AA y WCAG 3.0 APCA) y auditoría de paquetes .imscc en español norteño en el Centro Regional de Tecnología Emergente / Entrepreneurial College.*

1. PURPOSE, MASTER ABSTRACT & STRATEGIC VALUE TO WPE AND ALLIED HEALTH

In compliance with the **AWC 2026 Innovation Fund Proposal Guidelines**, this memorandum briefs WPE and Allied Health leadership on **Project Horizon: Scaling Digital Accessibility via Automated Curriculum-as-Code**. Across higher education, institutions rely on reactive, manual Canvas LMS remediation workflows and legacy 4.5:1 contrast formulas that fail to account for modern mobile displays, high-glare desert viewing conditions (100,000+ lux), and bilingual assistive technology needs.

Project Horizon solves this systemic bottleneck by deploying an upstream **Curriculum-as-Code (CaC)** pipeline in the **AWC Regional Center for Emerging Technology / Entrepreneurial College** that prevents non-compliant materials from ever reaching production while benchmarking the **W3C WCAG 3.0 working draft (released September 25)**:

- **100% Automated Pre-Commit Compliance Floor (WCAG 2.2 AA & WCAG 3.0 APCA):** Automates baseline ADA Title II compliance and batch .imscc Canvas package auditing at the build layer while evaluating **Bronze, Silver, and Gold** WCAG 3.0 APCA perceptual contrast, spatial frequency, and visual ergonomics across real student mobile viewports.
- **Air-Gapped Sovereign AI & Rural Resilience:** Executes quantized open-weight **Gemma** models offline on local edge hardware (≥16-core CPU, 64GB DDR5 RAM, ≥16GB VRAM GPU) with zero cloud dependencies, safeguarding institutional data sovereignty.
- **HSI Borderland Equity & Norteño-Spanish Linguistic Auditing:** Custom-programs automated edge-linters to validate regional **Norteño-Spanish** dialect, borderland idioms, technical vocabulary, and Spanish diacritics (tildes and accent marks) so screen readers deliver accurate contextual pronunciation and mobile screens maintain crisp legibility for bi-national, first-generation STEM and Allied Health students.

2. SCOPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE, IT PRE-APPROVAL & COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT COMPLIANCE

Zero IT Overhead & Air-Gapped Sandbox

The CaC pipeline operates strictly at the build layer using open-source pre-commit linters and local .imscc package inspection. It requires **no system-level API modifications** and **no live enterprise integrations** with production Canvas LMS. Mobile test units operate as an isolated, non-networked hardware collection without cellular plans or enterprise endpoint registration (100% FERPA-safe).

State of Arizona Cooperative Contracts & Fund Rules

Host Space: AWC Regional Center for Emerging Technology / Entrepreneurial College (plug-and-play desktop footprint; **zero Facilities renovations**).

Procurement Ready: All items are quoted under **Mohave Cooperative (#22L-CAMNET3-0121, #22L-CVOE2-0121)**, **NASPO ValuePoint**, and **SLG** contracts (zero bidding delays; zero stipends; zero travel; $0.00 recurring fees).

3. ITEMIZED BUDGET, TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS & 3-VENDOR COOPERATIVE QUOTE MATRIX ($8,850 TOTAL)

Line Item & Budget Target	Vendor-Agnostic Technical Specifications (Technical_Specs.pdf)	Competitive Tax-Exempt PO Quotes (Vendor_Quotes.pdf as of 10/07/2026)
1. Dedicated Edge Processing Workstation Budget Target: **$3,200**	**CPU:** Multi-threaded processor (≥16 performance cores) for parallel .imscc parsing & build linting. **RAM / GPU:** ≥64GB DDR5 RAM + dedicated GPU (≥16GB VRAM or unified equivalent) for local quantized Gemma inference. **Storage / Net:** 2TB NVMe PCIe 4.0 SSD; 100% air-gapped offline operation.	• **Option A — Aspire Technical** (Chandler, AZ • Tax-Exempt Educational PO): **$3,150.00** • **Option B — CamNet, Inc.** (Mohave #22L-CAMNET3-0121): **$3,195.00** • **Option C — Dell Technologies** (NASPO ValuePoint Higher Ed): **$3,120.00**
2. Dual Calibrated Reference Monitors Budget Target: **$2,400** *($1,200 ea.)*	**Panels:** Dual 27-inch 4K UHD (3840×2160) IPS/OLED displays for empirical luminance mapping & spatial frequency evaluation. **Color / Stands:** Hardware calibration (100% sRGB, ≥99% DCI-P3 / Adobe RGB w/ factory reports); height/pivot/tilt stands (DP 1.4 / HDMI 2.1).	• **Option A — ConvergeOne, Inc.** (Mohave #22L-CVOE2-0121): **$2,350.00** ($1,175 ea.) • **Option B — Carahsoft Corp.** (SLG Contract Catalog): **$2,380.00** ($1,190 ea.) • **Option C — Dell Technologies** (Higher Ed Institutional Tier): **$2,390.00** ($1,195 ea.)
3. Multi-Tier Mobile Testbed Budget Target: **$1,750**	**Android Tier:** Budget Android smartphone + mid-range Android tablet. **iOS Tier:** Legacy iPhone SE (small-viewport constraint) + current-gen standard iOS device. **Isolation:** Closed, non-networked .imscc Wi-Fi sandbox; zero cellular plans or endpoint registration.	• **Option A — ConvergeOne, Inc.** (Mohave #22L-CVOE2-0121): **$1,720.00** • **Option B — Aspire Technical** (Tax-Exempt Educational PO): **$1,745.00** • **Option C — CamNet, Inc.** (Mohave #22L-CAMNET3-0121): **$1,750.00**
4. Colorimeter & Lux Photometer Budget Target: **$750**	**Optical Colorimeter:** Professional sensor for white-point tracking, display profiling & luminance. **Ambient Photometer:** Digital lux meter (100,000+ lux) to measure harsh Yuma sunlight & export Bronze/Silver/Gold APCA telemetry datasets.	• **Option A — Pacific Office Automation** (Mohave Cooperative): **$730.00** • **Option B — Aspire Technical** (Tax-Exempt Educational Quote): **$745.00** • **Option C — Carahsoft Corp.** (SLG Catalog Rate): **$750.00**
5. Dissemination Materials Budget Target: **$750**	**Internal College Economy:** Reference guides, student-facing accessibility toolkits, and faculty workshop packets produced locally via **AWC Print Services**.	• **AWC Print Services** (Internal Inter-Departmental Transfer / In-Kind): **$750.00**
TOTAL REQUESTED: $8,850	**10.29% of $86,000 Innovation Fund Pool (Low Quote Bundle: $8,700.00 • Budget Ceiling: $8,850.00)**	**$8,100 Technical Hardware + $750 AWC Print Services • $0.00 Future / Recurring Obligations**

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM (PAGE 2)

2026 AWC Innovation Fund • Project Horizon: Rubric Alignment, Cooperative Vendors & Risk Mitigation

COMPLETION DEADLINE: DEC 31, 2027

4. ALIGNMENT WITH THE 100-POINT AWC INNOVATION FUND EVALUATION RUBRIC

Evaluation Rubric Criterion	Target Score	How *Project Horizon* Satisfies the "Excellent" Rubric Standard
1. Project Description & Purpose (10 pts)	**Excellent (9–10)**	Clearly defines goals and measurable outcomes: replacing reactive manual Canvas remediation with 100% automated build-layer WCAG 2.2 AA / `.imscc` compliance and empirical WCAG 3.0 APCA benchmarking.
2. Student-Centered (25 pts)	**Excellent (23–25)**	Demonstrates measurable, sustainable impact on student success and engagement across bi-national, first-generation, mobile-first HSI learners via `100,000+ lux` glare-verified typography, `$0` ZTC OER, and authentic Norteño-Spanish screen-reader auditing.
3. Collaborative (10 pts)	**Excellent (9–10)**	Integrates **WPE & Allied Health** (EXW OER curriculum), **AWC Regional Center for Emerging Technology / Entrepreneurial College** (host space), **Modern Languages Dept.** (Norteño-Spanish linguistic review), **AWC IT** (architecture pre-approval), and **AWC Print Services**.
4. Innovative & Strategic (20 pts)	**Excellent (18–20)**	Directly advances **AWC Strategic Plan 2028 & Vision 2026** by pioneering air-gapped open-weight AI linting and establishing a replicable national HSI blueprint for the September 25 W3C WCAG 3.0 working draft.
5. Elevator Pitch & Video (10 pts)	**Excellent (9–10)**	Supported by the Elevator Pitch YouTube video (`https://youtube.com/shorts/IEUsuTJr3Jc`) and live public proof in **`EXW-Demo` (Course ID: `42051`)** showcasing 56 zero-violation Canvas pages and the 8-app OER toolkit (`exwtoolkit.com`).
6. Feasibility & Viability (25 pts)	**Excellent (23–25)**	Backed by 3 formal quotes per item under **Mohave / NASPO / SLG cooperative contracts**, vendor-agnostic hardware specs, zero recurring software fees, zero IT network risk, and completion prior to **December 31, 2027**.
TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE TARGET	**91–100 / 100**	**High-impact, self-contained institutional innovation with zero ongoing fiscal obligation.**

5. APPROVED STATE OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE VENDORS & CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERS

Vendor / Institutional Partner	Contact & Location	Contract Vehicle / Project Horizon Role
Aspire Technical	1273 W. Morelos St., Chandler, AZ 85224 • `(480) 212-5153`	Arizona Tax-Exempt Educational PO / Local Vendor (Quoted on Items 1, 3, and 4: `$3,150` / `$1,745` / `$745`).
CamNet, Inc. & ConvergeOne, Inc.	Arizona Regional Servicing Office • `(928) 753-6945`	**Mohave Educational Services Cooperative Contracts** (`#22L-CAMNET3-0121` & `#22L-CVOE2-0121`; Items 1, 2, and 3).
Dell Technologies & Carahsoft Corp.	Round Rock, TX (`1-800-274-7799`) • Reston, VA (`(571) 662-3200`)	**NASPO ValuePoint / State of Arizona Higher Ed Contract** & **SLG Contract Catalog** (Quoted on Items 1, 2, and 4).
Pacific Office Automation & AWC Print Services	Phoenix/Tucson Regional Offices (`(928) 753-6945`) • AWC Yuma Campus	**Mohave Cooperative Contract** (Item 4: `$730`) & **AWC Print Services** internal production of faculty/student guides (Item 5: `$750`).
Cross-Campus Academic & IT Partners	WPE / Allied Health • Regional Center for Emerging Tech • Modern Languages • AWC IT	WPE provides EXW OER proving ground; Emerging Tech Center hosts testbed; Modern Languages reviews Norteño-Spanish linters; IT verifies air-gapped sandbox.

6. PROACTIVE RISK MITIGATION & MANDATORY REPORTING SCHEDULE (JAN – DEC 2027)

Identified Operational Risk / Milestone	Mitigation Strategy & Deliverable Verification
Risk 1: Hardware Supply Chain & Bidding Delays	**Mitigation:** Utilizing pre-competed **Mohave Educational Services Cooperative** and **NASPO ValuePoint** state contracts with 3 quotes per item ensures full compliance with AWC procurement thresholds without open-market bidding delays upon January 2027 fund release.
Risk 2: Local AI Model Compute Constraints	**Mitigation:** The `$3,200` Edge Workstation (`≥16-core CPU`, `64GB DDR5 RAM`, `≥16GB VRAM GPU`, `2TB NVMe PCIe 4.0 SSD`) is purpose-specified for high-throughput offline Gemma model inference and batch `.imscc` auditing without external server overhead.
Risk 3: Ambient Light Variance in Field Testing	**Mitigation:** The `$750` Optical Colorimeter & Digital Lux Meter (`100,000+ lux`) paired with factory-calibrated dual `27" 4K UHD (100% sRGB / 99% DCI-P3)` monitors ensures scientifically reproducible Bronze, Silver, and Gold WCAG 3.0 APCA contrast telemetry.
Mandatory Reporting: 3–6 Months, 9-Month Town Hall & Dec 31, 2027	**Milestones:** (1) *3–6 Months:* Progress update, calibration logs, and testbed photographs; (2) *9 Months:* Progress report and photos for **AWC Town Hall** recognition; (3) *By Dec 31, 2027:* Final completion & AWC Print Services guide release.

7. Live Public Proof Shell, Elevator Pitch Video & Submitted Application Verification

The **2026 AWC Innovation Fund — Project Horizon** application has been formally submitted (no additional divisional signature is required). WPE and Allied Health leadership may inspect the Elevator Pitch video, live Curriculum-as-Code proof-of-concept, and supporting OER architecture directly:

Elevator Pitch YouTube Video:
`https://youtube.com/shorts/IEUsuTJr3Jc`
(Project Horizon 10-Pt Pitch Submission)

Live Public Canvas Proof Shell (`42051`):
`https://azwestern.instructure.com/courses/42051`
(56 pages • `0` WCAG 2.2 AA violations)

8-App OER Toolkit & Applicant Contact:
`https://exwtoolkit.com` • Coach Alan Pruitt
`alan.pruitt@azwestern.edu` •
`+1.928.421.1050`