1. **Proposal Topic:** Insert topic or proposal name: Northland Community Communication Center

2. **Pick one or more of the following:**

- ☐ Information sharing
- ☐ Feedback
- ☒ Problem solving
- ☐ Needs recommendation

3. **Background Statement:** Provide background statement on the need that has been identified. Include the need identified, and any prior actions taken in relation to this proposal.

Students in online courses, primarily SPCH 1101: Introduction to Public Speaking, are not able to record speeches in environments conducive to their learning or success. Many students in these online courses are in residence at the college or live in the TRF community. Every semester students record speeches in kitchens, basements, garages, and vehicles which presents significant additional hurdles to their success.

4. **Summary/Rationale Statement**: Include any of the following that are applicable:

A. Describe how this aligns with the Strategic Directions and Priorities of the College

ACCESS – Meet students where they are to ensure all have access to high-quality educational opportunities.
Strategies
☐ 1.1 Expand recruitment to underserved populations.
☒ 1.2 Provide flexible learning opportunities.
☒ 1.3 Remove financial barriers for students.
☐ 1.4 Provide clear pathways for students.
☐ 1.5 Remove student enrollment barriers.
☐ 1.6 Streamline transition from pre-college services to programs.

STUDENT SUCCESS – Improve outcomes, success, and completion through quality programs, advising, and student development.
Strategies
☒ 2.1 Support students in achieving their educational goals.
☐ 2.2 Provide high-quality, relevant, engaging, and rigorous coursework.
☒ 2.3 Create a vibrant, supportive, and welcoming environment for students.
☒ 2.4 Provide exceptional student support services.
☒ 2.5 Provide individualized services to increase retention and support learning, education, and career goals.
☒ 2.6 Close equity gaps to improve success for all students.

PARTNERSHIPS – Strengthen partnerships with school districts, institutions of higher education, employers, and community organizations.
Strategies
☐ 3.1 Expand collaboration with education partners.
☒ 3.2 Increase community engagement.
☐ 3.3 Expand employer partnerships.
☐ 3.4 Respond and adapt to the ever- changing market and partner needs.

ADVANCING EQUITY – *Create an inclusive culture where all can reach their full potential.*
Strategies
☒ 4.1 Embody a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.
☒ 4.2 Ensure equitable access to resources for historically underserved individuals.
☐ 4.3 Ensure our campus community represents a rich array of experiences and viewpoints.
☒ 4.4 Establish community bonds through an understanding of our common humanity.

B. Identify and describe Interests

This proposal initially sought money from a Z-degree expansion grant because it provided the last piece of an online class that students were required to pay themselves: recording equipment. Providing a space and the equipment for students to record speeches and presentations lowers the costs and barriers for students in Introduction to Public Speaking and any other course that requires recorded individual or group presentations. Providing the space and equipment also allows students with lower quality, older, or broken devices such as phones, laptops, cameras, and microphones to participate in these courses successfully. This space also presents opportunities outside our formal classes. Students could also use the space for Zoom interviews for example. Although the use will likely be small, I also see an opportunity to invite the community to use the space for interviews and similar activities.

C. Identify if prior work has taken place or exists

In spring 2024, work began on creating the space. A room was identified, and the decision to use already existing equipment where possible was made. The room was assigned as an office which halted work on the Center at the time.

D. Identify key stakeholders and areas of partnership

IT and Facilities will have to set up the room. However, it is already furnished. This is minimal initial work and maintenance. Academic Success Center has similar spaces (see part E below). Potential partnership with TRF Public Library regarding community access.

E. Other

There are several reasons to create this space separate from the ASC (TRF 622B). First, we anticipate the vast majority of users will be Introduction to Public Speaking students. Having the space in the same suite as the instructors teaching that class makes monitoring, scheduling, and resolving issues easier and more direct. Second, there is likely to be a 'boom and bust' schedule that corresponds to major speech due dates. This would likely lead to a relatively high turnover rate. It seems unnecessary to add that to the responsibilities of the ASC especially around midterms and finals when speeches tend to be scheduled. Third, the existence of the Center would not necessarily prevent users from

using the similar options of the ASC, but would hopefully direct users to the more specific resource.

5. **Project Team Members:**

Project Sponsor: **(**Name of the sponsor (supervisor) who will be accountable for this proposal providing the scope and deliverables.)

Derek Lewis, Speech Communication Instructor

Team Members:

Adam Paulson, English Instructor; Stacey Hron, Director of Technology

6**. Additional Information – attach files if applicable**

Funds for the set up of the Center should still be available through the Z-Degree program given the primary focus on eliminating the required cost of recording equipment for students of Introduction to Public Speaking (and other courses). Equipment costs would be minimal as surplus/storage equipment would be adequate. There would be an additional cost of small stipends for instructors overseeing the Center. No additional staffing would be required. A scheduling system and email for the center would be ideal. This project could be operational within days with improvements and adjustments (such as room arrangement and branded NCTC backdrop) made over winter break. The proposal submission was supported by VPASA John Fields and Interim Dean of Academic Affairs Dorinda Sorvig prior to the completion of identifying the funds and reassigning the room.