

# Distance Education UpClose

A monthly publication of the Office of Distance Education at New Mexico State University

In This Edition:

The DE Advisory Board  
New DE Special Assistant  
to the Vice Provost  
Time Needs in ALNs

March 2003

## DE College Focus: College of Agriculture and Home Economics

*Opening the door to Distance Education throughout New Mexico*

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics has a long history of serving New Mexicans with distance education through their Cooperative Extension Service (CES). This outreach effort provides educational opportunities in the agricultural sciences, wildlife, environment, human nutrition, family, tourism management. Now distance learning will be even more accessible through online technology and at 47 new NMSU CAHE learning centers. In April 2001, NMSU's CES opened the first four of these centers. Currently, Extension offices across the state are receiving high-speed Internet connections and equipment with support from industry partners, including Eastern New Mexico Rural-Plateau Communications and TechNet. Extension offices are using these new resources to offer web-based training. Learn more about the NMSU Extension Learning Centers at: <http://cahe.nmsu.edu/extensionlearning/>. (Adapted from the CAHE website.)

In addition to the CES, the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, offers courses by distance using WebCT. The department of Family and Consumer Sciences is contributing DE courses to support the Bachelor of Health and Community Services degree program offered by the College of Health and Social Services. The Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management Department is currently developing a distance education degree-completion program.

## NMSU's Distance Education Advisory Board

*Furthering DE across the campus*

The newly-formed Distance Education Advisory Board (DEAB) is composed of faculty, staff, and administrative representatives from across the University. The focus of the Board is to research the many matters and issues related to DE at NMSU, revise and prioritize goals, and to advise the Vice Provost for Distance Education. The Board recently formed committees based on current issue areas in DE at NMSU. The committees are listed below along with their committee chairs. The committees are open to input and the Vice Provost encourages the entire University community to share their ideas and concerns regarding distance education with the appropriate committee.

The four DEAB committees and their chairpersons are:

**Administration, Policy, and Funding Committee** (Larry Olsen - College of Health and Social Services and Linda Riley - College of Engineering)

**Faculty Services and Support Committee** (Elise Pookie Sautter - College of Business Administration and Economics)

**Student Services and Support Committee** (Ramon Dominguez - College of Education)

**Technology and Infrastructure Committee** (Brian Ormand - Scholarly Technology)

## Upcoming Events

### Open WebCT March Events:

March 7 - **WebCT Calendar Tool**  
(FREE for NMSU Employees!)

March 11 & 13 - **WebCT in the Afternoon**

March 18 & 19 - **Centra: Training the Facilitator**

### NMSU Library DE Events:

March 5 - **Finding Spanish Language Materials**

March 12 - **Electronic Journals: Finding and Using Them**

### Teaching Academy Events:

March 14 - **The Work of Writing**

Go online to the "Professional Development" page, in the "Faculty" section of the DE website, for registration links.

## DE Faculty Profile



**Dr. Peter Gregware**  
Department Head  
Criminal Justice

College of Arts  
and Sciences

"One challenge in the development of an early distance degree program lies in providing all the class resources students need, without being able to rely on the larger University. Maintaining a class sequence which allows students to enter at any time, yet allows them to finish in two years, has been our major challenge and accomplishment."

## Surviving Distance Ed

*Time needs increase in ALNs*

Significant learning and rich discussions can be fostered in asynchronous learning networks (ALNs). However, activities in ALNs such as WebCT's email and discussion boards require more time to complete than in traditional face-to-face classrooms.

Research has shown that a one-hour group project done face-to-face requires one week in an ALN environment. Similarly, reading online in an ALN environment takes 2 to 4 times longer than reading its paper-based version. Keep this in mind when developing your ALN-based course.

For more information, go to <http://www.aln.org>. Watch for more ALN tips in next month's Up Close.

## Submissions

*We welcome your ideas, comments & suggestions*

Contact us at the Office of Distance Education to submit your ideas to "UpClose".

Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month for distribution on the 1st.

Email submissions to: [distance@nmsu.edu](mailto:distance@nmsu.edu), or send to: MSC 3WEC. Call 6-4692 for assistance.

## DE's New Assistant to the Vice Provost

*Wynn Egginton works to find needed resources for Distance Education*



*Dr. Wynn Egginton*

Dr. Wynn Egginton is now serving at New Mexico State University as a special assistant to the Vice Provosts for Research and Distance Education on project and proposal development. Since arriving in mid-January, she has helped submit proposals and concept papers involving distance education to the Fulbright Association, the American Council on Education, the Sloan Foundation, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

Over the course of her career, Dr. Egginton has written or co-authored a number of successful proposals to federally funded programs and helped direct implementation of the projects. Projects that brought in more than \$2 million each include the U. S. Information Agency's Central American Program for Undergraduate Scholars (CAMPUS) and the U. S. Department of Education's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and Transition to Teaching Program.

Dr. Egginton comes to NMSU from the University of Louisville where she served as University Coordinator for School Reform Initiatives, a position that involved working across all university departments in support of Kentucky's systemic Education Reform Act. In 1998, she was appointed co-director of the Nystrand Center of Excellence, a state-supported center at the University of Louisville focusing on collaboration with school districts and educational agencies with regard to teacher preparation, teacher development, and student learning.

## The Vice Provost's Corner

*Revisiting DE policy*



Given the increasing Distance Education activity on campus, it seems like a good time to revisit DE policy. The Distance Education Advisory Board's *Administration, Policy, and Funding Committee* has been given the task of updating and extending the existing policy as one of their very first assignments. Distance Education topics under review include faculty incentives and compensation, the funding/allocation model, quality assurance in course development and delivery, as well as assessment and evaluation. After the committee has composed their revised policy draft it will be presented to the Faculty Senate for review.

As discussed in the Distance Education Advisory Board article on the front page of this issue of UpClose, all committees are open to receiving input from the University community. Therefore, all University stakeholders are welcome to attend committee meetings or to send their ideas, suggestions, and concerns regarding Distance Education policy at NMSU to the assigned committee. Contact either Co-Chairs Larry Olsen or Linda Riley for more information.

Carmen L. Gonzales, Vice Provost for Distance Education