

Distance Education UpClose

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

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DE@CoE

WebCT Users Group

Assistance for Distance Ed

May 2003

DE College Focus: College of Education

Advocates for Distance Education

The College of Education has been a leader in distance education at New Mexico State University for many years. With a critical shortage of teachers in most parts of New Mexico, the College of Education has been responsive to this need by developing and implementing several undergraduate and graduate off-site (away from the main campus) distance education degree and licensure programs. The Bachelor of Science (BS) in Elementary Education degree-completion program is available at NMSU-Alamogordo, NMSU-Carlsbad and NMSU-Grants. For those students who already hold a Bachelor's degree and wish to teach in our public schools, a Post-BA Elementary Licensure option is also offered at these same locations. At the graduate level, a Master of Arts (MA) in Education with a Curriculum and Instruction Emphasis is available at Artesia, NMSU-Carlsbad, and Farmington.

For those educators wanting to work at the administrative level, the College of Education's Department of Educational Management and Development offers a Master of Arts (MA) in Educational Administration degree at NMSU-Carlsbad and Farmington sites. A graduate level Educational Administrative Licensure program is also offered in Carlsbad, Artesia, and Farmington.

Technology-based distance education degree programs under development at this time include a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Educational Administration with a Community College Leadership Emphasis, a Special Education Alternative Licensure, a Master of Arts (MA) in Education with a Learning Technologies Emphasis, and a Doctor of Education (ED.D) in Curriculum and Instruction with a Learning Technologies Emphasis.

In order to better support distance education programs in the College of Education, the College has created several DE support staff positions. Rick Scott, Associate Dean of Research for the CoE, supervises most distance education activities at the College with the help of a Distance Education College Coordinator, Juanita Mendoza. NMSU's Carlsbad branch campus, which offers many of the CoE's distance education degree and licensure programs, has received its own Distance Education Branch Coordinator, Denise Alaniz, from the College of Education.

NMSU's WebCT Users Group

A forum to share experiences and learn from others

WebCT, or Web Course Tools, is NMSU's online course management system. WebCT allows instructors to present course content in various multimedia forms, communicate with their students through email, discussion boards, and chatrooms, conduct online quiz assessments, and much more. Currently, there are over 17,000 NMSU students and staff registered in the WebCT system accessing courses online from main campus, branch campuses, and through distance education.

In order to share WebCT experiences and learn from others, a WebCT Users Group was formed in 2002. The inaugural gathering of the group, held on September 13, 2002, was conducted as an

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Upcoming Events

Scholarly Technology Events:

May 13-15 - **Tools for Teaching**

May 20 & 22 - **WebCT in the Afternoon**

May 30 - **WebCT CD-ROM Tool**

Title V Workshops:

May 13 & 14 - **Produce Online Video & Audio**

Go to the Faculty / Professional Development page on the DE website - www.nmsu.edu/distance for registration links.

DE Faculty Profile



Dr. Timothy Barnett-Queen
Assistant Professor,
Social Work

College of Health
and Social Services

"I think one of the greatest challenges facing our distance education efforts at NMSU is building an infrastructure to support faculty who are 'taking the leap' from traditional face-to-face paradigms to using technology either to support the traditional classroom or in the design and delivery of distance courses. Such infrastructure is required on many levels including faculty and teaching assistants working collegially to support distance education efforts. This year, my DE teaching assistant, Melissa Merrick, and I developed an online course template and student orientation for discussion-intensive online courses. We invite you to contact us (trbqueen@nmsu.edu) if you'd like to take a look."

