

Distance Education UpClose

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October 2003

2003 NMSU Distance Education Conference

Expanding the Learning Horizon



Keynote speaker Molly Herman Baker at the conference's Friday Luncheon.

The first annual 2003 NMSU Distance Education Conference: *Expanding the Learning Horizon* took place in Milton Hall Thursday, September 25th through Friday, September 26th. With over 100 participants registered and 33 presenters, this inaugural conference, designed to familiarize prospective, new, and experienced distance educators/stakeholders with distance education at NMSU was by all accounts a great success!

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Fall Enrollments Report

NMSU distance education enrollment more than doubles

Enrollment in distance education programs offered by New Mexico State University has more than doubled since last year as increasing numbers of students take advantage of new educational opportunities for achieving their educational and professional goals.

Gladys De Necochea, Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students, reports that preliminary enrollment figures show an increase of 140 percent in the number of students enrolled in distance education programs, from 378 one year ago to 910 this year (Fall, 2003). Although the number is still a relatively small percentage of the more than 15,000 students enrolled in programs offered by the NMSU main campus, distance education is one of the university's fastest-growing program areas, Dr. De Necochea has stated.

This growing popularity is considered to be a result of developing degree programs to meet the requirements of individuals who are not able to travel to NMSU because of personal or professional obligations. Vice Provost Gonzales: "I've been looking at the needs of the state, traveling a lot and talking to people about their needs... we're not just offering classes, we are putting up entire programs, so that people know they can finish the program by distance education." For example, NMSU faculty members travel to branch campuses to teach courses in a "2-plus-2" program that allows branch campus students in Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Grants to complete a bachelor's degree in education at the local branch. "This program is responding to the shortage of teachers in the state," according to the Vice Provost.

The university's distance education offerings also include a Master of Social Work program based in Albuquerque that has doubled its enrollment since last year, and an online degree-completion program in sociology that allows students to take their junior- and senior-year courses over the Internet. Altogether, the university now has 13 distance education programs up and running, with a goal of having 25 programs by 2005. - Adapted from a September 5, 2003 University Communications News Release by Karl Hill.

NMSU Events

Scholarly Technology

October 7 & 9 - **WebCT in the Evening**

October 10 - **Simplifying Course Evaluations with Respondus in WebCT**

October 17 - **WebCT Content Module**

Title V Technology Events

October 10 - **Beginning Image Editing**

October 24 - **Enhancing Classroom Presentations**

NMSU Library Events

October 8 - **Introduction to EndNote**

October 16 - **Basic Legal Research**

October 17 - **Electronic Journals: Finding and Using Them**

October 21 - **MLA Citation Style**

October 22 - **APA Citation Style**

Visit the *Faculty* area of the DE site [<http://www.nmsu.edu/distance>] and click the *Professional Development* link for these and other events.

National Events

October 22-November 5 - **2003 UMUC Intellectual Property in Academia Workshop Series: Implementing the T.E.A.C.H. Act**
Online/via Distance

October 22-24 - **Technology + Learning Conference**

Anaheim, California USA

For more events, information and links, visit the *DE Clearinghouse Conference Database*

[www1.uwex.edu/disted/conf/].

Profiles



Denise Welsh
Manager, Media
Technology

Office of Distance
Education

Denise Welsh is the manager for the Office of Distance Education's Media Technology Department. Denise has been at NMSU since 1984. Prior to NMSU, she was employed at El Paso Community College for 11 years facilitating Media Services for three campuses. Denise currently serves on the Advisory Council on Administrative Policy (ACAP) Insurance Committee, the NMSU Distance Education Advisory Board (DEAB) Technology and Infrastructure Subcommittee and the Faculty Services and Support Subcommittee. She is also a member of the NMSU Learning Technologies Users Group and is the Milton Hall Building Monitor.

Denise schedules all non-college of agriculture requests for Centra. Centra is a synchronous web delivery solution for conducting virtual or live classroom events, meetings, interviews, group activities and training by utilizing live two-way voice through a standard Internet connection.

Additional services managed by Denise include video production, duplication and conversion services. Conferences broadcast via satellite from other universities or business can be received at NMSU through the satellite downlink system. Distance education courses for distribution via videotape are produced by Media Technology. Courses may also be broadcast live to one site or multiple sites, produced in Media Technology's two-way video and audio ITV classrooms or by Centra. Equipment and support are also available to the public and government/corporate clients frequently contract the services of Media Technology.

2003 NMSU Distance Education Conference

Expanding the Learning Horizon - continued from page 1

As distance education grows in leaps and bounds at New Mexico State University, it is important that we support the faculty, graduate assistants, staff, and administrators responsible for the design, development, and delivery of this education, and this annual conference is viewed as an important part of this support. A variety of special events, presentations, and hands-on workshops offered participants many choices to suit their individual professional development needs. The opening luncheon on Wednesday included special addresses from Dean Robert Moulton, College of Education; Michael Hites, Campus CIO; and Mark Workman, Assistant Vice Provost for Distance Education. Nationally recognized distance education expert, Molly Herman Baker, was the keynote speaker for Friday's luncheon. Presentations included "Getting Started in Distance Education @ NMSU" and "Growing Distance Education Programs". Workshop topics included WebCT and Centra, NMSU's most popular web-based technology tools. Ongoing tours of the Office of Distance Education, the Teaching Academy, Scholarly Technology, and Media Services were also available to provide a background glimpse into Milton Hall's facilities, the center of NMSU's distance education operations. The conference finale event was a DE Faculty Course Models Open House that brought together a broad cross section of distance education faculty at NMSU to display their courses. During this event, a Palm Pilot m130 was given away in a drawing. The lucky recipient of this prize was Rebecca Chambers of the College of Health and Social Services. Congratulations Rebecca!



Views of the 2003 NMSU Distance Education Conference held on September 25 and 26.

Photographer: Kurt Nimmo

Thank you to all participants and presenters for supporting this very important first-year NMSU Distance Education Conference! The Office of Distance Education would also like to thank our partners for their contributions: The Teaching Academy, Media Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Scholarly Technology, and the Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) Project.

Start planning to attend next year's conference, the *2004 NMSU Distance Education Conference: Collaborating for New Opportunities*. This event will be open to the public and have a Call for Proposals beginning December 1, 2003. Regional public and private institutions that work in distance education will be invited. To learn more, visit the conference website [<http://distance.nmsu.edu/conference2004/>], available November 1, 2003.

Surviving Distance Education

Enhance your course with web-based technology

As the Internet becomes the dominant distance-education media (see Distance Education Trends below), educators have more opportunities to take advantage of available web-based resources to enhance their courses. In your next course, consider using one of the following web-based strategies:

- Provide your course materials online via WebCT [<http://salsa.nmsu.edu>]
- Assign web-based research utilizing one of NMSU's many electronic journals [<http://lib.nmsu.edu/journals/index.shtml>]
- Provide an online discussion area in WebCT
- Facilitate online collaborative learning activities using WebCT
- Provide online self-assessments using WebCT
- Substitute a face-to-face session with Centra [<http://www.nmsu.edu/~scholars/centra.html>] or WebCT Chat.

Current Research

Distance Education Trends

A recent article in the Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration [<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/ojdl/fall63/fall63.htm>] lists thirty-two trends that have implications for distance learning. Some of those trends include:

- Students are shopping for courses that meet their schedules and circumstances.
- Instruction is becoming more learner-centered, non-linear, and self-directed.
- The Internet is becoming dominant among other distance-education media.
- The distinction between distance and local (face-to-face) education is disappearing.

As you can see from these trends, it is becoming more important to expand university programs with distance education opportunities including fully online and technology-enhanced courses and programs.

The Learning Technology (LT) Usergroup

Agenda topics for the 2003-2004 Academic Year

- Exam Security
- Alternative and Emerging LT
- LT Course Design/Pedagogy Issues
- Classroom Technology Design/Support
- Future Technology Directions at NMSU
- Cross Campus LT Design Standardization Possibilities
- Bandwidth Efficiency
- Show and Tell of Current DE Courses
- Support for LT Instructors

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 10, 2003 at 1:30PM in Room 80, Milton Hall, on the NMSU main campus, Las Cruces. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome and volunteers to present on topics are needed. All NMSU distance educators are encouraged to join The NMSU Learning Technology (LT) Usergroup and enjoy many networking and professional development opportunities! To join or volunteer, contact Timothy Barnett-Queen at trbqueen@nmsu.edu.

Learning Opportunities

Implementing the TEACH Act

[<http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/ipa/workshops.html#teach>]

October 22-November 5
Workshop presented by
University of Maryland University
College

Teaching Groups Effectively Online

[http://www.webct.com/workshops/viewpage?name=workshops_emoderating]

October 15-29
Workshop presented by WebCT

Preventing Academic Dishonesty

[http://www.umuc.edu/distance/odell/cip/vail/faculty/designing_assignments/]

Anytime workshop presented by
University of Maryland University
College

News Bits

Worm Eats Homework

Technology provides many opportunities. Lately, it provides students with a whole new set of homework excuses. The latest, "a worm at my homework," was heard after W32.Welchia struck. For the rest of the story, see [<http://chronicle.com/infotech/>]

Students Find Perfect Match

Typically, students are randomly assigned to dormitories and they may not get the roommate of their dreams. However, students at one university will use software to help match them up with their perfect roommate. For the rest of the story, see [<http://chronicle.com/infotech/>]

Update

Library Services for Distance Educators

Use this Web link [<http://lib.nmsu.edu/ital/>] to access information designed especially for DE faculty on the following topics:

- Library Services for DE Students
- Citing Electronic Information in APA & MLA styles
- NMSU Library Catalog
- Using the Internet for Academic Research
- Electronic Databases
- Students and the Internet
- Electronic Journals
- Evaluating Web Resources

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, or send to: MSC 3WEC. Call 646-4692 for assistance.

About UpClose

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DE College Focus: College of Engineering

Continuing with our special series of articles that focus on the distance education efforts of NMSU's Colleges, this month we profile the College of Engineering. The College offers two nationally-recognized DE programs: a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering (MSIE) with a minor in Manufacturing and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME) with a minor in Manufacturing. Originally created for Boeing Corporation employees, the programs are now open to the public.

Certificate Programs are rapidly gaining in popularity in response to increasing continuing education and professional development needs and the College of Engineering is in the forefront of this higher education trend by offering certificates in Simulation, Finite Element Analysis, and Lean Manufacturing.

The College of Engineering's courses are delivered utilizing the broad spectrum of DE delivery modes including satellite television, Interactive Television (ITV), the World Wide Web, faculty exchanges and off-site classes.

For more information on distance education at the College of Engineering, contact Edward Pines at epines@nmsu.edu, Christina Brumm at cbrumm@nmsu.edu, Linda Ann Riley at linriley@nmsu.edu, or Norris "Bud" Green at budgreen@nmsu.edu.

Next Month's DE College Focus: College of Health and Social Service

The Vice Provost's Corner



Distance education at NMSU is clearly gaining popularity. With the new enrollment figures for Fall, 2003 showing a solid 140% increase in distance education student participation over the last year, we are confident that we are accomplishing the directive given to us by former university president Jay Gogue to make distance education a reality for the institution and for the state. Providing expanded access and learning opportunities to more students in more locations is our mission and in doing so, we are also helping to fulfill the mission of the university as a land grant institution.

To further this directive, the theme of this year's 2003 NMSU Distance Education Conference for faculty, graduate assistants, staff, and administrators was *Expanding the Learning Horizon*. For many of the conference's participants, who considered themselves as distance education novices, we were able to offer many options for learning about distance education and NMSU's commitment to this exciting development in higher education. Shortly we will have information available for next year's conference: the *2004 NMSU Distance Education Conference: Collaborating for New Opportunities*. This conference will be open to the public and have a Call for Proposals beginning December 1, 2003. Regional public and private institutions that work in distance education will be invited. To learn more, visit the conference website [<http://distance.nmsu.edu/conference2004/>], available November 1, 2003. We look forward to working with you.

Carmen L. Gonzales, Vice Provost for Distance Education