

Implementing Distance Learning into Montana ABLE



Quality Initiative
September 17th, 2008

Montana's Distance Learning Team

- **Office of Public Instruction**
 - Margaret Bowles: Montana ABLE State Director
 - Jackie Provance: Distance Learning Education Consultant
- **Crow Agency/Hardin**
 - Jerry Guay: ABLE Director
 - Patricia Whiteman: ABLE Instructor
 - Anita Schoppe: ABLE Instructor
- **Lewistown/Roundup**
 - Diane Oldenburg: ABLE Director
 - Gloria Miller: ABLE Instructor
 - Marie Ann: ABLE Instructor
 - Paula Mentzer: ABLE Instructor
- **Miles City**
 - Annette Gordon: ABLE Director
 - Jennifer Kocher: ABLE Instructor
 - Melinda Lynnes: ABLE Instructor
 - Shelley Freeze: ABLE Instructor



Distance Learning Stages of Development



- Phase I – Trainings & Preparation
- Phase II – Marketing & Orientations
- Phase III – Instruction, Evaluation, & Revision

Phase I



Training and Preparation for Distance Education

Trainers Introduce New Software to the Montana Pilot Teams

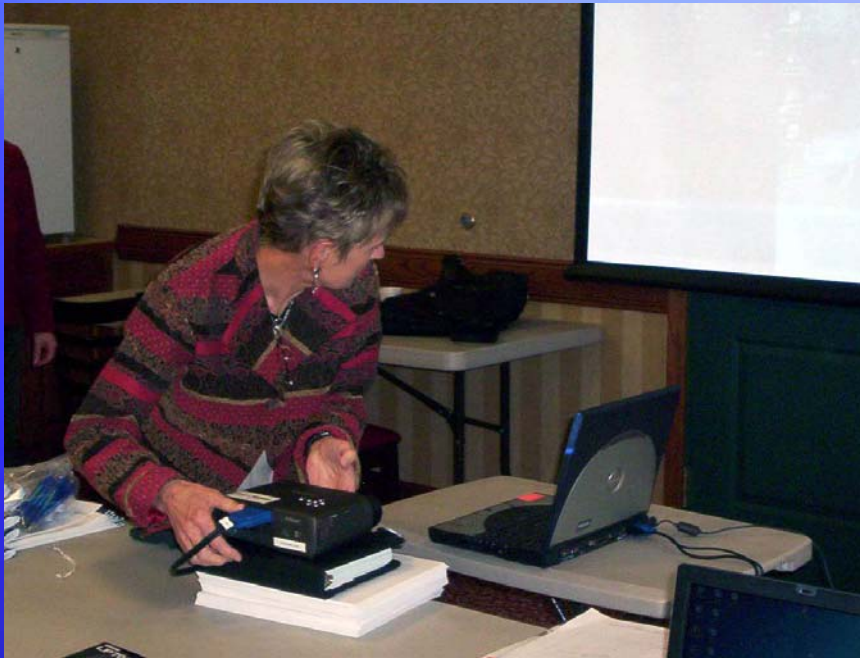


Mary Grott introduces Missouri GED Online and SkillsTutor



Leslie Petty introduces Project Ideal

Montana Pilot Teams Begin to Explore Distance Education



What are Effective Strategies for Online Instruction?

- Professional Development?
- Resources?
- Recruitment?
- Retaining Students?



What are the Characteristics of a Distance Learning Student?



What assumptions can you make about me if I want to become a DL student????

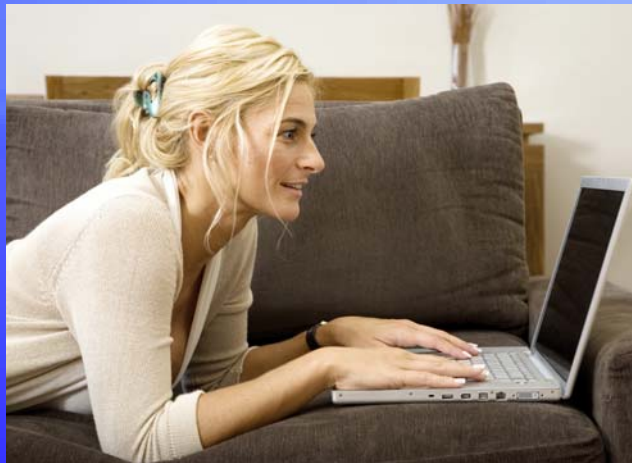
What resources are needed for the success of distance students?



How do programs recruit distance learning students?

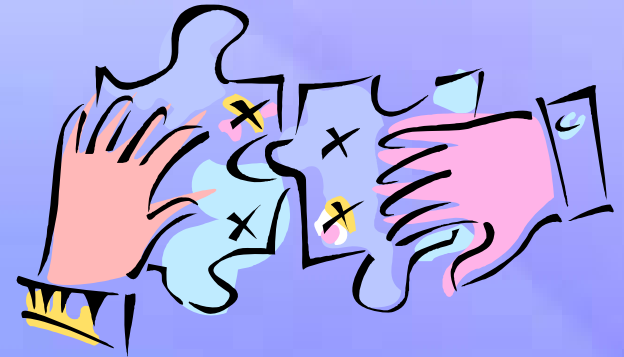


How do Instructors Make Distance Learning Students Feel Comfortable Online?

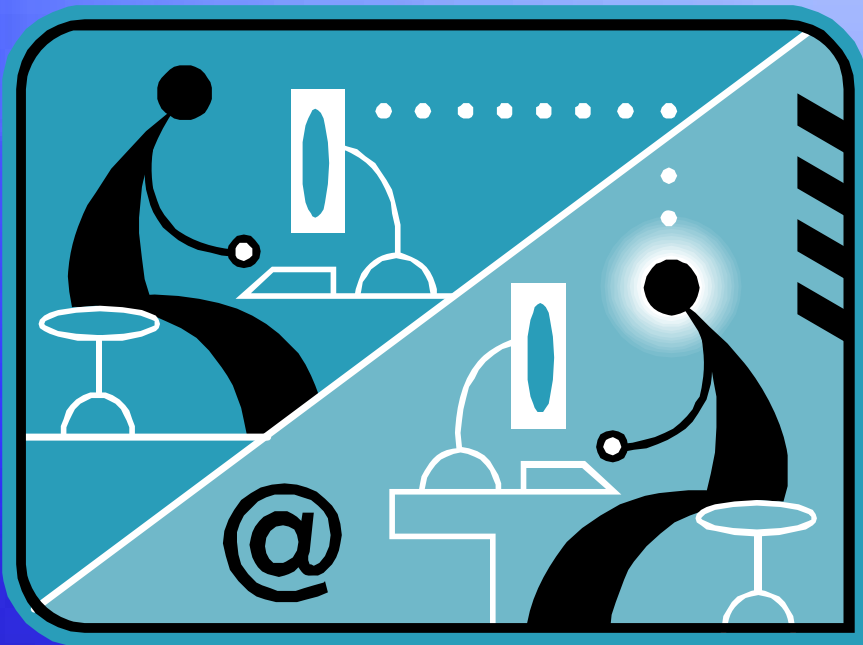


Communication is key!

How Will Programs Match Instructors with Students?



How do programs retain distance learning students?



All Teams Create Charts of Current and Potential Partner Agencies

Date of Contact	Currently an Employer/Partner Agency	Dropped off Needs Assessment & Marketing Pkt	Contact Person	Phone Number	Follow –Up *Returned Needs Assessment

State Promotes Distance Learning

Marketing Materials are designed to advertise Montana ABLE Programs and introduce distance education

- Needs Assessment
- Brochures
- Fliers
- Display board materials for job fairs/business fairs

Build Skills for
Success
with Adult Basic and
Literacy Education

Literacy and GED Online Learning
Now Available!

All instruction is FREE!

January 2008

OPI
Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Outcomes of Phase I

- Teams complete Assignments
- Instructors learned distance learning curriculum
- A process for online instruction evolved at each site
- Partner agencies & potential employers were identified
- Classes were incorporated into MABLE
- State produces marketing materials
- Monthly conference scheduled

Phase II



Marketing and Incorporating Distance Learning into Montana ABLE programs

Local Programs Prepare Marketing Packets to Include:

- Win-Win-Win Document
- Needs assessment updated with specific site information
- Orientation flier
- Site brochures
- State fliers & brochures to promote distance learning
- Business cards
 - Lead distance learning instructor
 - State distance learning consultant
- Program hours of operation



Community Outreach Begins

- Meet with partner agencies and potential partner agencies
- Deliver ABLE marketing packet to employers



Continue with Community Outreach...



- Schools
- Health Care Programs
- Public Assistance Organizations
- Employers



Marketing Continues

Creating Awareness and Making ABLE Friends



Program Expands Availability of GED

by Laura Tode of the Gazette Staff

- Roxanne Chavez is proud to say she graduated before her eldest son, who is a junior at Hardin High School. It seems obvious, but to Chavez it's something she thought she'd never be able to say.

Chavez is the first graduate from a new online General Educational Development program that was launched in January as a pilot program in Hardin, Lewistown, and Miles City. Her son won't graduate for another year.

- GED online**

- The online GED program, which provides the functional equivalent of a high school diploma, is expected to go statewide this fall and should be available through all adult education sites in the state. It's structured almost exactly like the GED study courses offered on-site, except that participants study the subjects online and take the five required tests at the nearest adult education center.

The program was designed to broaden the opportunities for adult GED seekers in the more remote areas of the state and to accommodate students whose schedules might not fit within the hours of many adult education sites. About 40 participants signed up when the program started and more are added every week. Chavez is one of 15 students who started the online GED in Hardin.



Marketing Milestones

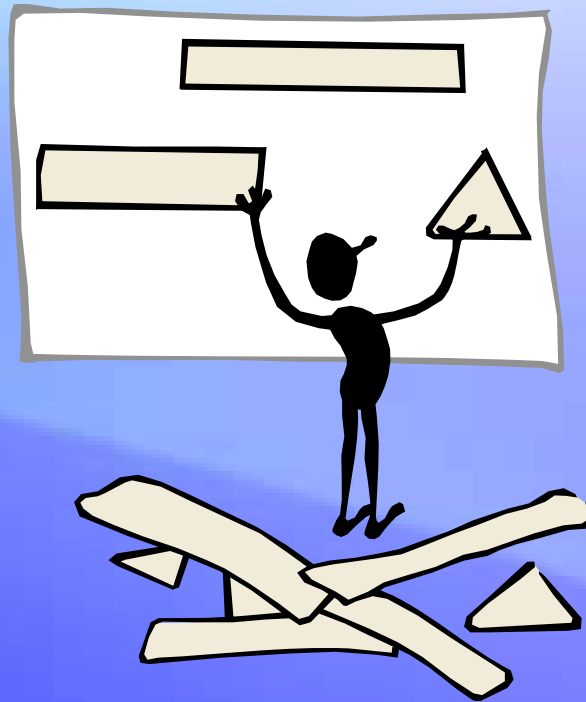
- ***Outreach*** into communities
- Each site ***planned***, ***organized***, and held distance learning ***orientations***
- The ***first distance learners*** were enrolled and experienced success
- A professional ***bond was created*** within distance learning team



Measurable Outcomes of Phase II

- Enrollment numbers increased 20-50%
- GEDs via distance learning were attained
- On the average distance learners logged 8.5 contact hours/week
- On the average distance learners were enrolled for 2 -3 months
- On the average distance learners made a 20% educational gain after post testing

Phase III



Instruction, Evaluation, and Revision

Instructional Support

Montana Protocol
Guide is developed
from best practices to
guide programs with
distance learning
implementation



Instructional Support Continued.....

The Distance Learning Policy for ABLE is developed which defines and facilitates the implementation of distance learning delivery



Instructional Support Continued...

State provides Web site on FTP server as resource to support ongoing communication

- Promotes collaboration between pilot sites
- Access a state Website to find distance learning resource:

- Newspaper templates
- Newspaper articles
- Advertisements
- Certificates and awards
- Protocol Guide



Pilot Teams Evaluate and Revise...

- Latest marketing tools
- Final Distance Learning Protocol Guide
- New deliverables
 - Complete electronic student management system
- Website with distance learning resources
- Procedures using GED Online

Can your program support DL?

Do you have...

- ***Commitment*** to professional development?
- Time to integrate a new curriculum?
- Time to support ***marketing efforts***?
- Commitment to ***ongoing communication*** with other distance learning programs?
- Commitment to provide annual distance learning improvement plan?
 - Analysis/assessment of employer and student needs
 - A goal to increase the number of distance learners served with an accompanying marketing plan

Catch the wave!



Climb aboard and surf

your way into 2009 with distance learning

– Embrace distance learning and make the paradigm shift for the future success of Montana ABLE