



Center for Extended Learning

The Office of Instructional Technology and the American with Disabilities Act

Two important pieces of legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Television Decoder Circuitry Act (TDCA) have impacted online or Internet-based education in several ways. Foremost, both of these acts have mandated closed captioning. The basic mandate of the ADA is:

Persons with disabilities should have “an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by a public entity.”

Inasmuch, all online educational video and audio based content should be closed captioned, providing people who are deaf or hard of hearing with the “equal opportunity to participate.” This mandate became effective in 1993, but only a handful of institutions of higher education are addressing the issue.

In the spring of 2005, the Office of Instructional Technology hired a student with a visual impairment to participate in a review of the institution’s online courses. The impact of the review resulted in numerous changes at ground level. Foremost, we have placed significant emphasis on ADA requirements during the beta test process and a higher focus on ADA training for online faculty and designers. We also made a commitment to address the need for closed captioning and text alternative formats. Inasmuch, in 2006, we created a position to caption or provide text-alternatives for online-based audio and video to meet the needs of our students. Since that date, Katie Aide, a graduate student in Communication Disorders; Patrick Telfer, a senior in Elementary Education; and Alyson Parrill, an MSU sophomore, have converted thousands-of-hours of audio and video into a text-based format and integrated the files into our online courses.

This commitment of resources has not only helped our students with hearing impairments, but captioning and text alternatives also benefit students who are learning English as a second language. Moreover, students experiencing audio or download issues have the file in text format as a last alternative, ensuring access. The Office of Instructional Technology will continue keep faculty and staff informed on ADA compliance issues and strive to make MSU Online accessible to every student.

CEL Mission and Core Values

The mission of the Center for Extended Learning (CEL) is to provide flexible, accessible and quality lifelong learning opportunities. To carry out this mission, CEL assists the University in offering programs and learning opportunities that:

- Are taught by University faculty committed to teaching and learning with excellence, integrity and engagement.
- Use campus technologies to promote teaching and learning excellence and engagement.
- Are respectful and responsible regardless of student location or educational goal.
- Foster a sense of community and place in students that may be geographically removed from campus.
- Involve community members and recognize their contributions as respected and valued contributions to the University.
- Involve learners of all ages in ways that promote high ethical and moral principles.

The Dean’s Perspective



Happy summer! Although eager for a little fun in the sun, the CEL staff is busy with many

projects including the Blackboard Skills Summer Institute, College for Kids, the Municipal Finance Officers Institute, the Mind/Brain Myth-busters seminar, the Dakota Chamber Music Institute and many professional development workshops for teachers across the state.

Please take a look at our “Dates to Note” section. We have several events early in the fall that we want you to be aware of now. One new activity is the CEL Information Event. Our hope is that the session will attract campus staff, faculty and administrators who want to know more about what we do and how we do it. Representatives from all CEL areas will be on hand to answer any and all questions!

Enjoy the warm weather and I hope you find the time to start up the grill and swat a few mosquitoes!

—Dr. Kristen Warmoth

Quote of the day:

***In winter I get up at night,
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.***

— Robert Louis Stevenson —

Academic Advising at MSU Online

Beginning a degree program is a big step for anyone—whether a student is just beginning a college career, transferring, or coming back after a hiatus.

MSU Online is here to help. We offer full online degree programs. A Bachelor of Science in Management, Management Information Systems, Virtual Business or a Bachelor of General Studies will help students advance in their career. We also offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degrees to those individuals that have previously earned an AAS degree.*

Academic advising is available to assist students in making informed decisions. Students need to feel confident about their plans to make the most of their education and complete their degree as proficiently as possible. The Online Advisor, Trisha Nelson, provides students with a lot of the information they need to succeed in their program, as well as the personal assistance they need to sort out the information and what it means to them.

The Online Advisor makes information, tools, and tips for student academic planning available in-person and at a distance. A trained professional advisor who is thoroughly familiar with the online programs is available through email or by phone to answer questions and address students individual situations.

To receive additional information contact Trisha Nelson, the Online Degree Advisor: mydegree@minotstateu.edu, 701-858-4422 or 800-777-0750 ext. 4422.

* This list of degrees available online is not exhaustive. Please refer to the website, www.minotstateu.edu/online, for advising information on the additional programs available at a distance.

Sue's Scene

We are excited to have Brigitte Mikula as our new assistant advisor. Some of you might already know her as she comes to us from the education center at Minot AFB with over 6 years experience as a military counselor.

We are gearing up for the 1000 new military personnel expected at the base. Our office is one of the first to greet these new people with our information table at the Right Start briefings held twice a month on base. We are looking forward to having them as our new students.

Center for Extended Learning Hosts Blackboard Skills Development Institute



(Photo: Anton Huether, MSU, 2008)

The Center for Extended Learning in conjunction with the Office of Instructional Technology hosted Minot State University's first Blackboard Skills Development Institute. The institute was a two-day workshop designed to help new online faculty or those inexperienced in development and design methods to prepare a quality, interactive online course. Participants exchanged information and ideas on course design, learned how to incorporate online best practices and MSU's recommended use of course tools, and how to use supplemental tools to enhance the online learning environment.

The following Minot State University faculty attended and successfully completed the Institute: Jan Repnow, Teresa Seright, Linda Pettersen, Debra Dewitz, Diann Hanson, Tamara Johnson, Prit Paul Kaur, Christina Chung, Melissa Spelchen, and Patricia Lomire.

The following Minot State University-Bottineau faculty attended and successfully completed the Institute: Valerie Michael, Brad Gangl, Codi Rybchinski, Peggy Gregg, Sister Sharon Houle, Aimee Erdman, Gary Albrightson, and Sherry Niesar.

Dates to Note

- July 30 New Student Orientation for MSU Students on the BSC Campus, 12 – 4 p.m., Prairie Room, BSC Student Union.
Contact: Bobbi Jo Zueger, 701-224-5496
- August 5 MSU Open House on the Minot Air Force Base, 5 – 7 p.m., Francis X Deignan Building.
Contact: Sue Krebsbach, 701-727-9044
- Sept. 11 Dual Credit Student Orientation, 1 – 3 p.m., Ann Nicole Nelson Auditorium.
Contact: Kim Schwinler, 6-3990
- Sept. 16 CEL Information Event, 10 – 11 a.m., repeated at 2 – 3 p.m., Student Union Conference Center.
Contact: Julie Keller, 6-3359