

Society-Ready Graduates

Multi-media Classroom Learning Center

Issue

Across the country, post-secondary agricultural education programs are dealing with meeting university minimum enrollment standards, a shortage of secondary school agriculture teachers, and teachers needing resources and technical assistance that will take them into the 21st century.

Teachers in remote areas still need to keep up with the demands and standards of the profession but often cannot attend professional development classes in person.

What has been done?

A self-contained multimedia learning station, or “command center” has been developed to deliver distance education workshops to

vocational teachers and students across the state. The instructor can capture classroom participation, E-mail, Internet, multimedia, video and 3-D image display. Using the system, one instructor can film a class at the university, producing a high quality video that can then be sent directly to off-site participants. Currently 7 courses are offered through this process.

Impact

The program is reaching a record number of undergraduate and graduate students, and educators in the field of agricultural education. Ninety clients who otherwise would not have been able to continue their education have completed distance education courses so far. The ultimate impact of the program is that

educational standards for excellence in teacher and professional education can be met even in rural areas that do not have traditional university facilities.

“If it weren’t for the new distance classes, I wouldn’t be able to get my Master’s in Ag Ed.” —Lance Fite, of Safford High School, Safford Arizona

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