

impact

of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



Society-Ready Graduates

Multi-Media Classroom for Teacher Preparation

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, 3 D image display and web casting. 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. So far, 150 clients who otherwise would not have been able to continue their education, have completed distance education courses in teacher preparation. 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.

“This technology enabled me to complete my degree without traveling 230 miles or paying the added expense. I was able to see the professor on video, and could still interact and ask questions by email.”
–Agricultural education teacher at Cibola High School, Arizona

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