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NAEPDC

News, Views, and Clues

July 14, 2014

Distance and Blended Learning—Extending Your Reach

In 2002, 15 states were interested in reaching more students with distance and blended learning. NAEPDC, with funding from then OVAE, created a working group that grew into a self-sustaining collaborative call Project IDEAL-Improving Distance Education for Adult Learners.

More than two dozen states have benefited from their expertise.

For example, last year these five states offered adult learners a distance learning option. Here are the numbers they served:

- Arizona: 505 distance learners (2.3% of all the adults they served)
- Arkansas: 503 (2.5%)
- Minnesota: 1,468 (5%)
- Missouri: 2,386 (7%)
- Texas: 9,420 (10%)

These states – and seven others – belong to the current Project IDEAL Consortium

Creating a successful distance program is a worthwhile challenge. Ohio took four years to get it right, as described in this [case study](#). With assistance from the Project IDEAL Support Center Arizona learned from Ohio's experience and were able to reach the same enrollment levels and educational gains in just two years.

Member states receive technical assistance from the Project IDEAL Support Center staff and share promising practices with one another at the annual distance education workshop. This year's workshop will be held August 18-21. The agenda is attached.

This year someone from your state could attend the workshop at the Alumni rate of \$1,800 and learn what's possible. You could decide later whether a full membership would be in your state's best interest. The fee covers registration and materials, but also hotel, meals, and round-trip airfare.

For more information about Project IDEAL, visit our website (projectideal.org) or call and discuss possibilities. As director of the Project IDEAL Support Center Jere Johnson can visit your state – in person or on Skype – and help you and your key state staff explore the possibilities of distance education for the adult learners in your state. Here is his contact information.

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Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

NAEPDC

A Natural Resource For Adult Education State Directors and their Staff Members

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