

Private Kansas Colleges Team Up

Using Kan-ed Funded Equipment



Two small, private colleges in Kansas have teamed up to collaborate in offering mathematics and computer science courses using Kan-ed funded videoconferencing equipment. The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Bethel College, located in North Newton, and the Mathematics department at Tabor College, located in Hillsboro, work together to offer most of their intermediate and upper-level courses in mathematics and computer science as distance courses. According to Karl Friesen, chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Bethel College, the two colleges primarily use Interactive Television (ITV) to deliver lectures at regularly scheduled times. The two colleges have also used the videoconferencing equipment to conduct departmental meetings with colleagues at the partner college in lieu of travel.

In 2007-2008, the colleges offered two computer science courses using ITV to 15 students, and they now have adopted ITV for seven upper-level mathematics and computer science courses, increasing service to 50 students in 2008-2009.

The impetus for this partnership between Bethel College and Tabor College was Tabor College's receipt of a Kan-ed grant to equip their campus with high-definition ITV equipment in 2007. This equipment provided Bethel College with a partner with compatible technology. The deployment of the Kan-ed network improved the Internet bandwidth capacity at both Bethel and Tabor and improved network communications between the two schools dramatically.

Friesen listed four advantages of utilizing the videoconferencing equipment for courses:

- 1) We can offer our courses in standard time slots, instead of having to build in time to travel to another campus. This in turn increases the accessibility of our courses to more students, particularly to non-majors.
- 2) The elimination of travel gives students and instructors more time in their week.
- 3) The elimination of travel reduces the potential for accidents.
- 4) The elimination of travel reduces travel expenses (fuel, maintenance).

Friesen shared that working with Kan-ed has been a very positive experience. He stated, "The Kan-ed staff has been great to work with and handles our requests in an expeditious and courteous manner and are to be commended."



Bethel College
Serves: 585+ students,
150+ faculty
Kan-ed member since:
November 21, 2002

Phone: 785-296-0843
Email: kan-ed@ksbor.org
<http://www.kan-ed.org>