



Kan-ed Funded Equipment Has Been a 'Shot in the Arm' for Teacher's Career

Clay Manes, high school English teacher at Ellsworth USD 327, has been using Kan-ed funded videoconferencing equipment in his Composition I and Composition II classes on a daily basis. He shared, "While it took me a few weeks to develop my teaching style to meld with video conferencing, I have learned that using the technology effectively can enhance the teacher/student interaction in numerous ways."

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He went on to describe one of those practices, "One very effective practice is to use it to share student quick-writes." Manes described that this involves giving students a short time frame (10 to 20 minutes) to write brief responses to prompts, and then using a document camera or a computer/projector setup to allow students to look at what their peers have written. He stated, "This is a huge improvement on having them read their compositions in class. We'll use the Word editing program in a group setting wherein every student can contribute to the peer editing and revision process. The videoconferencing equipment actually is better than a live classroom setting in that respect."



Manes shared that the videoconferencing equipment is being used widely in the school. He remarked, "The Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) program has provided our little, rural school the opportunity to bring college courses such as Sociology, Composition, and Psychology to our students. Not only does this save many of our families some money, but it provides seniors a new challenge that they otherwise might not have." Additionally, several students and local adults are gaining their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification through IDL, allowing them to improve their careers.

Making the transition to distance classes takes some work but can be a rewarding experience, according to Manes. "Distance learning is a challenge; to connect with students whom you don't see one-on-one requires that the instructor and the students work harder at interaction. We're making it work, though, and the challenge has improved my live one-on-one classroom teaching in the process. In that respect, the videoconferencing equipment has been a shot in the arm for my career as well."