

Meeting Student Expectations with Kan-ed Services

Serves: 200,000+
students with over 90
programs of study

Member since:
September 15, 2003

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Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) uses a multitude of services provided by Kan-ed to provide learning opportunities to their students and to allow WATC to effectively allocate resources for student learning. These services include the Kan-ed sponsored Educational and Research Databases, the Kan-ed Live Tutor/Homework Kansas, Interactive Distance Learning (IDL), and videoconferencing.

The Kan-ed connection is necessary for low-income students who don’t have Internet access at home. Rita Severt, Library Director, said, “We have a lot of our students that come to us and use our computing services, especially at the Southside Education Center, because they have no other way to get to a computer. As we go through decreased funding from the state, having to pass along the burden to our students, the services through Kan-ed become even more important, because we need to be able to provide the level of services the student is expecting.”

Kan-ed also allows WATC to connect students to learning opportunities on their different campuses through IDL. LeArta Watkins, Director of Distance Learning/General Education, noted that “select classes are being broadcast back and forth between campuses. We are wanting to enlarge that endeavor, though, to reach out to other areas of the state for our program development.” IDL also is being used to bring classes from other institutions to WATC students. Watkins said, “In continuing ed, I know we’re dialoguing right now with St. Francis Hospital on receiving CMA updates and program related content in particular to our healthcare programs through the Kan-ed network.” She added that distance learning provided through Kan-ed services is a “growing area of the school.”

WATC trains classes on the use of Kan-ed sponsored databases. Watkins said, “The Kan-ed databases that we have for the library, we wouldn’t be able to afford those at the institution rate. There’s no way. So for us, this is ideal, and for our students, too.” Access to the databases gives students more opportunities to research and to learn associated skills in a more comprehensive way than would be available without Kan-ed. Additionally, WATC is able to offer resources for job-seekers through the Kan-ed provided Learning Express database. Randy Roebuck, Executive Director of Technology/Institutional Effectiveness, noted, “We’re here for those who need the training, basic computer skills, résumé skills, resources to help them find a job.”

WATC students also use Live Tutor/Homework Kansas tutoring services to support their coursework. Watkins described how this service helps students and saves WATC money, “It wasn’t until we started researching online tutoring options that we realized that we have this service already available.” Jessica Ohman, Dean of Student Success, added, “I think Homework Kansas is definitely a great thing for students. I think a lot of people are becoming more aware of Homework Kansas, and I would tell the legislator, ‘Please, keep those Kan-ed services like Homework Kansas available for the students’.”

Videoconferencing via the Kan-ed network is another important service for WATC. Watkins commented, “We’re saving a lot of travel dollars because of the videoconferencing. And it increases productivity, because again you don’t have that travel time. It’s making our state a better state to live in.”