"Wanna be a star?"

Teach on TV in Sacramento, California
Distance Learning
Using Community Resources & Technology

Lynn Bartlett SJUSD
Lynn Marlowe SECC
Technology and Distance Learning Symposium Sacramento, California
Feb 17-19 2009
This workshop will:

- Discuss distance learning basics
- Explore how a community collaboration works
- Discuss local program design and implementation
- Offer suggestions to participants interested in implementing a TV program in their district
Simple Definition

Distance Learning is an educational delivery method where the students & instructor communicate in a number of ways, but are separated during most of the instructional process.
The student, rather than the instructor, controls the pace of learning.
Role of Distance Learning

Distance learning can be the …

- **primary** means of instruction (majority of instruction)
- **supplemental** means of instruction (enrichment)
Why Use Distance Learning with Adults?

- to reach hard to serve students using technology
- to provide interesting curriculum that stimulates higher-order thinking
- to serve students with special needs
- convenient
- individualized
San Juan Distance Learning Project began in 1995 as a community collaboration designed to educate “hard-to-reach” students.
Students choose distance learning classes:

- lack transportation.
- have child care responsibilities.
- struggle with health issues.
- have job schedule conflicts.
- don’t speak English.
- fear classrooms.
San Juan Unified School District Distance Learning is a collaborative project. Here are our partners:
San Juan High School Media Arts students help crew our live programs every week.
High school students producing REAL live TV programs.
Regional Occupation Program (ROP) students who crew our programs.
Adult education teacher working with ROP student.
California State University, Sacramento relays and broadcasts our television signal.
Comcast provides the television airwaves.
Sacramento Educational Cable Consortium (SECC)

http://www.secctv.org

Schedules and markets our programming.
http://www.bestnetsacramento.org/
How does SJUSD Distance Learning work?

We provide live, televised classes enabling adult students to learn at home.
TV Course Offerings include:

- Multi-level ESL
- Accent Reduction
- Algebra
- TOEFL preparation
- ABE math & reading
- GED test prep
- Parenting
- Workplace skills
Distance Learning hosts an Open House
Who are our students? 2008-2009

1300 currently registered
- video libraries
- television classes
- online classes
74% female / 26% male

Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Farsi, Vietnamese and Ukrainian

32% have e-mail addresses

Youngest ‘students’ are the babies of at-home mothers and the oldest is a 94-year-old ABE student who loves to learn new things.
SJUSD Produced Accent the Positive

Accent reduction courses, taught from 1998-2007

The five different series focus solely on English pronunciation improvement
- Materials are presented on-air via computer.
- Students participate by calling in on-air to practice.
- Pronunciation materials are sent to students.
- Off-air calls & student visits to studio.
Accent the Positive
Workbooks, CDs & Audio Tapes
Live class wrap-around video

- Video adds interest
- Uses authentic English
- Models context for acquired language use
- Pre-produced video series have coordinated curriculum
- Pre-teach vocabulary & idioms
- Introduce life skill
- View video
- Video comprehension
- Grammar lesson & practice
- Special skill practice
Student Involvement

- Students register by phone
- Materials are sent by mail
- Students view classes & do exercises & assignments
- Assignments are sent in to instructor, corrected & commented upon & returned
- Students have office visits
- Students take CASAS tests
Assessment

How do we know they’re learning?
How do our students learn at home?

They watch live classes on TV.
They call to practice on the air with their teachers.
They complete workbooks.
They are assessed.
They complete contact sheets & writing assignments.
We also have video libraries in seven locations district wide.
SJUSD Online classes

- English for All (EFA)
  www.myefa.org
- GED Online (McGraw-Hill Contemporary)
Cable Television

- Develop partnerships with other school programs (Media Arts, ROP)
- Find out if your local cable provider offers public access programming
- Explore available programming
- Select “brave” teachers
- Develop strategies for marketing, enrollment, student assessment and curriculum delivery
Videos to consider

- Crossroads Café
- EASY ESL
- Connect with English
- Putting English to Work 1, 2, 3
- English For All
- Sharing English Together
- Watch and Listen
- TV 411
- In English
- GED Connection
- Workplace Essentials
Student Contacts

- Communication is vital
- Never give up
- Make it easy for students to stay involved
- Encourage students to share information about your program with others; they are your best ambassadors.
Meet Our Students!

“We love our TV classes and teachers.”

Mingli Liu & Hua Li
“You are never too old to learn. To improve your mind is to improve your life.”
“I miss the Nile delta, but I love the United States. It’s a great life here; I like everything.”

Manal Nasseff & son
Cheryl Wimberly

“Watching the TV classes increased my motivation to learn.”
“I like to keep my mind active. There is so much to learn. At my age it’s difficult to get out, but I can watch TV. Your classes give me a way to keep right on learning in my own home. Thank you!”