

Northland Pioneer College
Title III Conference Form

Name: Dr. Patrick Canary **Position:** Biology/Chemistry Faculty for NPC at the LCC Campus

Conference Title: TechEd_2006 **Conference Date:** March 27 –29, 2006

Conference Location: Pasadena, CA

Please describe the purpose of attending this conference and list the Title III Goals and Objectives that are supported by attending this conference.

I attended this conference to learn more about the methods of distance instruction and to learn how others are providing for distance instruction, particularly in the sciences. This activity relates to **Goal One:** To strengthen the design and delivery of distance learning courses through development of a Distance Learning Resources Partnership.

Please write a one-page summary of information gained at the conference that relates to the stated goals and objectives and how this information will be applied to completing these goals and objectives.

There were several things that I was able to learn from the conference that will aid we in the improvement of my on-line teaching. I was able to attend the Adobe workshop in which I was introduced to the use of Dreamweaver software that can be used to construct web pages. I also attended several sessions that presented methods of on-line delivery that did not use the typical systems such as WebCT or Blackboard, but rather used open source platforms in conjunction with web pages.

While I was there, I met several people who provided me with approaches to distance education that were a little different from the typical on-line classes. I was fortunate to spend some time talking to a presenter who has an online Biology class that includes a lab. After I spoke with him for some time, I came to the conclusion that his labs are not really online, they are simply not done on campus.

I did see demonstrations by a few vendors who had on-line labs, but the content of these labs was rather weak. Also most of them were aimed at the k-12 audience rather than a college audience. In general, I would say that most of the conference was really aimed at the k-12 audience rather than a college audience.

The keynote speakers were excellent. They pointed out, in rather different fashions, that we are truly in a new age of education and that how we learn will dramatically change over the next ten or twenty years. There are many exciting innovations in education that are going on, and we truly need to be a part of the process. However, the process is not just moving lecture material from a spoken method of delivery, to a visual method of delivery. We must truly utilize the technology that is available.

I feel that my participation in this conference was helpful since I did learn methods to strengthen my design and delivery methods for my existing on-line course and I also saw examples of ideas to improve the design of the on-line courses that I am presently developing.