

Northland Pioneer College Planning Committee Focus Group Activity
Friday, August 27, 2004

Group 2: (Internet courses, online degrees and online programs) “Given the demographics of our service area, what are the best ways the college can accomplish access and learning for all students?” Facilitators: Belknap/French.

Five highest responses:

1. Call/email support center for helping Internet students
2. On-line tutorial for Internet Students
3. Need a division/person to coordinate distance education
4. Have classes in alternate models to meet needs of all students
- 5.

Specific responses:

- Help students develop internet skills before starting classes
- Internet not for everyone; some need one on one with instructor
- Mobil classrooms – access to computers in remote areas
- Internet classes exclude some students – look at as many avenues as possible; do not ignore what has worked.
- Classes in alternate modes to meet needs of all students
- Need a division/person to coordinate distance education
- Renew commitment to stand alone classes in conjunction with distance learning
- Keep Federal regulations in mind for Internet classes – financial aid tracking needs to be put in place
- Internet good in some areas; still need skill labs
- Internet good – need more support for Internet students
- Internet works well – so far so good
- A “24/7” call/email support center for helping internet students
- Online tutorial for Internet students
- Support (money) for students to buy computers
- Enhance college experience for students (i.e., student lounge, cybercafe, etc)
- Internet supplements other classes
- Internet here to stay – think outside the box
- Offer paid/pay at computer Internet access – more access/availability