



### Center for Extended Learning

## Advising Distance Students

Online students have much to offer. They are the present and the future of education. As technology continues to evolve, we must allow it to enhance the way we interact with students. Technology is only going to get better and more powerful. But technology will only be an effective tool if it supports and humanizes the service we provide to our distance students.

One of my main goals when advising students at a distance is to build a strong connection between the distance student and the University. Since there is most often an absence of face-to-face contact it is important for our distance students to know they are a real and definite part of the MSU family. When advising at a distance, every interaction with a student is an opportunity to strengthen that relationship.

Any advisor plays a vital role in helping students understand their academic requirements, as well as make good choices. Whether that is to change their major because they are not well suited to a discipline, or to withdraw for a term because their parent is dying of cancer, advisors provide the support students need to navigate and succeed.

As an advisor, I have an opportunity to not only encourage students to earn their degrees, but to take a special interest in helping them develop into successful professionals. Giving a student “an ear” to actively listen, providing the “extra push” needed for forward academic progress, and at times, sharing my own experiences with students is not done in a sense of duty but rather a privilege. Helping students find academic direction may satisfy students’ short term objectives, but inspiring them will enrich their confidence and have a far-reaching effect on their undergraduate experience.

— Trisha Nelson, Online Advisor

## Online Enrollment

Getting ready for the fall semester was very challenging in CEL. Many of our students have also been affected by the flood in Minot. We saw decreases in enrollments in our IVN, Independent Study, Online, JobCorps, and Bismarck programs. Our Minot AFB and Outreach programs saw some good enrollment increases this fall. Enrollments across all programs are listed below.

| Instruction Mode  | 2010 Enrollments | 2011 Enrollments |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bismarck          | 260              | 225              |
| Fargo             |                  | 21               |
| Independent Study | 37               | 17               |
| IVN               | 75               | 46               |
| Job Corps         | 52               | 12               |
| Minot AFB         | 355              | 376*             |
| Online            | 2,392            | 2,371*           |
| Outreach          | 186              | 227              |
| Web Based         | -                | 27               |

\*Enrollment numbers include non-degree credit courses (MATH 102).

— Jolina Miller, Online Coordinator

## The Dean’s Perspective

What a summer! This newsletter’s quote is one of my favorite. To me it embodies what I like best about living in North Dakota – the spirit of the people



who live here. In the face of adversity, the university and the community worked together to support those in need.

In this newsletter you will find updates from the various CEL units. In spite of the flood, many activities carried on. We found that participants were thankful to have a temporary diversion from the devastation. Fall is one of my favorite seasons and this year I’m sure that many of us are especially happy to say good bye to the summer of 2011.

Be sure to put the CEL Fall Open House on your calendars. This will be our first event on the 3rd floor of Administration. The open house is our way of saying thank you for your support and is a great way to take a quick break on an autumn day. Put November 9th from 9am to 11am on your calendars and stop by for refreshments and pleasant conversation.

— Dr. Kristen Warmoth

## Professional Development

This summer was a busy one for Professional Development, but for different reasons than normal. Due to the flooding we had to cancel our annual Municipal Finance Officers Institute (MFOI). We have held this Institute on our campus for 26 years, so it was extremely hard on everyone to cancel it. We are already booked for next year's Institute, and are looking forward to seeing everyone again. We were able to hold most of our College for Kids camps, but we did have to cancel some of them. The ones we did hold were very successful and all the kids and instructors had a great time!

— Amy Woodbeck, *Professional & Community Education Coordinator*

## Blackboard Updates for MSU

The Office of Instructional Technology has some exciting news. We will soon be upgrading our Blackboard Campus Edition™ to Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1, the latest release of Blackboard's new generation (NG) of platforms. Here are just a few things that are built into Release 9.1.

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

In Release 9.1, exciting new social learning and teaching tools foster more logical, visually impactful, and active learning opportunities for students, helping them stay connected to their educational experience 24 hours a day. I think we can all get excited about features like wiki's, gradable blogs, and mashups. We've also acquired SoftChalk for the development of interactive text and graphics.

### EDUCATOR EFFICIENCY IS IMPORTANT

New capabilities in Release 9.1 will save educators time and effort, making it easier to focus on student achievement and retention. Enhanced grading workflow, an assessment manager, and learning modules for course organization allow instructors to be more efficient.

### SUCCESS ENABLERS TO HELP US GET THERE

Blackboard is offering more assistance than ever before to help us better understand how to take advantage of all the new features in Release 9.1 to include an On-Demand Learning Center and numerous faculty and student tutorials. The tutorials video-based, interactive, and are broken down into:

- Understanding and Building Your Course
- Communicating and Collaborating
- Assessing Learners
- For Students

Visit <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/> to learn more.

To learn even more what is different about Blackboard Learn Release 9.1 visit the Office of Instructional Technology web site (<http://www.minotstateu.edu/oit/>) and select the "What's New in Release 9.1" brochure. It will give you some more detail about the innovative new features we are about to experience.

— Mark J. Timbrook, *Technology Design Specialist*

## Dual Credit and ACT

In the last newsletter issued by the Center for Extended Learning, I was new to Minot State and happy to boast 140 dual credit students. This semester, we have 187 students with over 280 enrollments. I am happy to welcome Sarah Hicks, Paula Nett, Consuelo Devine, and Marty Shaw as new dual credit instructors.

The ACT Center has also experienced a number of changes. We have a new home on the third floor of Administration, room 361. This fall, we expect to expand from 8 workstations to 15. The expansion is necessary in our pursuit to offer the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). We continue to serve testers on campus and at Minot Air Force Base in their academic and professional pursuits.

— Sharon Seidl, *Dual Credit & ACT Coordinator*

## 50 Years Serving Minot AFB!

We began the summer term with our 50th Anniversary celebration held on Monday, June 6, at the education center. Cake and ice cream was served to students as they were greeted on their way to class.

We will participate in the "Military Affairs Luncheon" on November 3 in which Dr. Fuller will present a plaque in recognition of the 50 years of service to Minot AFB.

In addition to our monthly briefings on base, we set up an information table at the Farmer's Market Fair on June 29 & 30, the Base Exchange 116 year celebration on July 25, and we attended the "Still Serving" event at the Base Exchange on September 23.

Be Seen. Be Heard. This is our goal here at the base.

— Sue Krebsbach, *Coordinator at the Minot Air Force Base*

## MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY ON BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS

I am truly excited to enter my 5th fall semester with MSU @ BSC! I look forward to marketing MSU @ BSC and recruiting transfer students into our six degree programs.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Melissa Spelchen has accepted a fulltime CJ position on the MSU campus, and continues to advise 45 students and instruct two courses on the BSC campus.

### SOCIAL WORK

Susan Herzog, MSW/LICSW held the Social Work Admission and Field Committee meetings on October 6th for students applying for field and for admission into the SWK program.

### ADDICTION STUDIES/PSYCHOLOGY

As of the 2011 fall semester, Dr. Henry Riegler is the part-time Advisor for the MSU @ BSC Addiction Studies and Psychology majors.

Quote of the day:

*“Circumstances don’t make the man; they only reveal him to himself.” — Epictetus*

## MANAGEMENT

Jeanne MacDonald is the Management and Marketing Instructor/Advisor @ Bismarck State College.

— *Bobbi Jo Zueger, Bismarck Center  
Students Services Coordinator*

## CEL Fall 2011 Open House

Join us on Nov. 9, 2011 for the CEL Annual Fall Open House. Once again we have food, fun and pleasant conversation. Drop by between 9 and 11 a.m. and say Hi!

## Who is this CEL staff member?

This CEL staff member broke a toe during their wedding dance. The answer to this mystery will be revealed in our next newsletter.

## CEL Staff

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## CEL Mission and Core Values

The mission of the Center for Extended Learning (CEL) is to provide flexible, accessible and quality lifelong learning opportunities. To carry out this mission, CEL assists the University in offering programs and learning opportunities that:

- Are taught by University faculty committed to teaching and learning with excellence, integrity and engagement.
- Use campus technologies to promote teaching and learning excellence and engagement.
- Are respectful and responsible regardless of student location or educational goal.
- Foster a sense of community and place in students that may be geographically removed from campus.
- Involve community members and recognize their contributions as respected and valued contributions to the University.
- Involve learners of all ages in ways that promote high ethical and moral principles.