CONFERENCE TO FEATURE THE LATEST ADVANCES IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - The Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas is a co-sponsor of the 2002 Arkansas Distance Education Conference, “New Challenges/New Opportunities,” on Jan. 10, 2002. The conference, to be held in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Enterprise Development on the UA campus, lasts from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and features seventeen different sessions on distance education issues.

The keynote speaker is Chere Campbell Gibson, associate professor and chair of the department of Continuing and Vocational Education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Gibson is a nationally known expert in distance education.

The conference also is being presented in conjunction with several colleges on the UA campus, including School of Law; College of Engineering; Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; and University Libraries.

Bob Hails, Walton College director of Distance Education, said, “Distance education is an emerging field in education. It is being utilized by high schools to present classes that they are not staffed for as well as by universities to simultaneously transmit classes to other cities.”
Hails added, “We will be using the distance education technology we are highlighting in our conference in order to ‘present’ the conference. For example, we will be broadcasting the conference to four remote sites in Arkansas and one in Ohio. We are also receiving presentations by CD and video conferencing.”

The remote sites are England, Ark. School District; UA Community College - Hope, Ark.; MidSouth Community College, West Memphis, Ark.; and UAMS, Little Rock, Ark. as well as Ohio University.

Several Walton College faculty will lead sessions and participating in panel discussions. A listing of the sessions in detail can be found on the conference website.

Three or four experts on copyright and other legal issues related to distance education will make presentations. For instance, Steven Armatas, an attorney with the law firm Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLP, Akron, Ohio, will present ‘Distance Learning and Copyright: Legal Issues.’

Hails said, “There will be an excellent opportunity for visuals (video and photography) in our control room. With the video conferencing, you will be able to see the remote sites on screen as we conference with them, experts on distance education for sound bites, and a variety of educators from around the state.”

The registration fee is $40. Instructions for registering can be found on the website. For more information and registration information, e-mail: deconference@walton.uark.edu or on the web: waltoncollege.uark.edu/rced/conference.

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