

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

---



CENTER FOR DISTANCE AND  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

*World-Class Learning Solutions.*



# The Role of Technology in Serving Students and Institutions

Muriel K. Oaks, Dean

*Center for Distance & Professional Education*

Washington State University

Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board

*Board and Advisory Council Meeting*

**June 28, 2007**

**Bothell, WA**



# The Role of Technology

- Serving Students...  
with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Serving Institutions...  
as a Strategic Asset

# Serving Students...

- Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (P21)  
(Public-private organizations formed in 2002 to create a successful model of learning for this millennium that incorporates 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into our system of education)

# **P21 report,**

“Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

## **Key Elements of the P21 Report...**

- Use 21<sup>st</sup> century tools to develop learning skills
- Teach and learn in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context

# Required skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy...

- Global awareness
- Self direction
- Collaboration
- Technology literacy
- Information literacy

# **Required skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy... (continued)**

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Innovation and improvement skills
- Communication skills

# Online learning as a strategic asset...

NASULGC-Sloan National Commission  
on Online Learning

# Online learning as a strategic asset...

- Recruitment / Access
- Retention
- Enrollment Management
- Degree Completion

## Online learning as a strategic asset... (continued)

- Just-in-time program development and delivery
- Disaster preparedness
- Impact on classroom instruction
- Blended courses / degrees
- Continuing and professional education

## Online learning as a strategic asset... (continued)

- Quality of instruction
- Cost of instruction
- Technology infrastructure
- Physical plant / capacity balances
- Faculty development and incentives

# Online learning as a strategic asset... (continued)

- Partnerships
  - Inter-institutional
  - International
- Political outreach
- Alumni and donor relations

# Conclusion

Technology in higher education

- more than just a delivery system
- more than just enhanced infrastructure

# Conclusion

## Technology in higher education

- changing the way students learn and what they learn
- helping institutions meet their strategic goals

# Thank you!

## Muriel K. Oaks

*Center for Distance & Professional Education*

**Washington State University**

[www.distance.wsu.edu](http://www.distance.wsu.edu)

[oaks@wsu.edu](mailto:oaks@wsu.edu)

(509) 335-5454

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

---



CENTER FOR DISTANCE AND  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

*World-Class Learning Solutions.*