



70% more classrooms equipped with video



49% increase in new programs



22% increase in student growth while minimizing costs

Video transforms education, increasing access to connected learning across 43 locations

Utah State University:

Size: 28,000 students
 Industry: Higher Education
 Location: United States

Solutions

- Cisco video conferencing, enabling greater inclusion, program choice, and engagement for distance learners

Scalable distance learning

Utah State University (USU) always seeks to innovate. The latest example is helping more than 5,000 students at 43 sites across 29 counties reach their full potential, both on and off campus.

Teachers used to have to be physically in the same room with students so they took planes and trains to reach rural areas. Distance learners would mail in assignments and wait to get their grades. And it was costly to hire staff and difficult to put together new programs.

That all changed when the university created its connected learning environment. Now, they offer interactive video courses (IVC) throughout Utah, interacting with more students than ever before. So it's much easier to offer programs to distance learners and share resources.

Distance learners get to stay close to friends and family. Previously, if students got full-time job offers or had to relocate, they might have to put their studies on hold, or even drop out.

Now, the university uses Cisco software applications to extend video throughout Utah, so students can join in remotely at designated USU sites. This has led to video-enabled distance learning enrollments to grow at a faster rate than USU main campus student enrollments.

Today Utah State University has 75 distance education degrees and programs, which is increasing the university's ability to provide rural students with access to the best teaching faculty and courses.

Growing curriculum and courses taught by this amount under the previous operating model would have been cost prohibitive. Today, they are able to save money while reaching more students.

Faster growth at lower cost. That's the goal of every organization but even more critical in today's Internet economy.

"Cisco Collaboration helps us reach more people, more efficiently, and in a more engaging way."

Robby Sproul
 Technical Professional
 Utah State University



Angie Thompson took advantage of USU's unique interactive video courses to pursue a university degree as a single mother in a rural Utah town hundreds of miles from a traditional brick and mortar university.



Shawn Whitehorse received his bachelor's degree in psychology taking interactive video courses at a USU site in remote Montezuma Creek, Utah.



The university is developing new programs faster

For More Information

To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, go to

www.cisco.com/go/customerstories

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Life-changing experiences

Growing up in a small town near Delta, Utah, Angie Thompson moved to Salt Lake to begin her four-year degree. Unforeseen events had a profound impact on her education.

Mid-way through her course, Angie found herself in the position of being a single mom with three small children to support.

"My dream was to provide for them without having to work multiple jobs," she says. "When I found out that USU offered degrees through distance learning, I was so excited because I knew that my dream could become reality."

That decision provided remarkable experiences. Angie was part of the winning team in a national accountancy competition, helping a non-profit entity serving at-risk kids in the Baltimore area.

"It was unquestionably one of the best experiences of my life that I will treasure forever," she adds.

Angie has since graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is about to embark on her master's degree.

Native American gains access to college degree

Living in Montezuma Creek, a remote town of only 300 people in southeast Utah, someone like Shawn Whitehorse would normally have to move far from home to attend college. However, Utah State University's extensive interactive video courses (IVC) system allowed him to complete his bachelor's degree in psychology without leaving his home.

"Being able to stay in Montezuma Creek, I think I was able to enjoy a more personal college experience," Shawn said. "It turned out to be very efficient by allowing me to earn my degree without stopping and starting."

Shawn attended USU's small Montezuma Creek site for four years and completed nearly all of his coursework via USU's IVC. He moved to the university's main campus in Logan to finish his final few senior credits and have a more traditional college campus experience.

Shawn is currently preparing to take the GRE and pursue his master's degree. He would eventually like to get a Ph.D. and work as an industrial organization psychologist. He hopes to use his degree to create and implement effective training and leadership resources for teams and businesses.

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