Blended Distance Learning: An Alaska Case Study and IPv6 Lab

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Bridging Alaska Communities with Education and Workforce Development
The Opportunity:

- Cisco Academy programs were mature and enrollments were dropping
- University was looking to increase distance offerings through workforce development programs
- Wanted to retain experienced faculty and industry connections
- Statewide need for shared resources to strengthen existing Cisco Academy programs including areas with limited bandwidth
The Answer:

- Provide advanced technical training to students throughout Alaska
- Provide access to technology otherwise unavailable in remote areas
- Utilize a blended distance learning model
A total of 12 Alaska academies serve remote and “urban” communities
Cross-border agreements have been signed for tuition and credits

- Whitehorse, Yukon Territory
- Prince George, British Columbia
- Juneau, AK
- Ketchikan, AK
Working Together
Tools for Student Access to Learning

NDG NETLAB+  +  Blackboard

Cisco

Illuminate
Teaching Hands-on via Distance: Things to Think About…
Distance Learning Terms

- **Synchronous** - students meet at the same time
- **Asynchronous** - not meeting at the same time
- **Blended Distance Learning (BDL)** - combination of synchronous and asynchronous course work
Establishing a Successful Program Has Hurdles

- Institutional
- Pedagogical
- Implementation
- Quality
Institutional Lessons

- **Do not do this alone:**
  - Establish credibility with superiors—nothing happens without their support
  - Establish credibility with peers (on going)
  - Offer to share ownership of the process of change

- **Change is not a natural process in an institution:**
  - Distance education is ill defined and quality varies
  - Seek change at the edges where it is most needed
  - Demonstrate success on a small scale first
Pedagogical Challenges

- Get training in distance delivery
  Teaching online is **not** the same as in a class or lab
  Many good programs available online; take a distance class before teaching one

- Build your class community online
  Students welcome the chance to know and help each other

- Collaboration is key
  Cultivate student engagement in synchronous sessions
Implementation Challenges

- Build slowly
  - Try different tools and choose the one that suits your goals
  - Consider using a familiar learning management system (LMS)
- Partner with your IT department
- Address registration and textbook delivery issues
Quality Challenges

- Keep the technology transparent
  Keep tools to a minimum to reduce confusion

- Prepare your students
  Students should login **before** the first class

- Insist on quality instruction and instructor training

- Record sessions

- Do the labs **with** students online
  Many teachable moments to be found
"The Cisco Academy supports blended distance learning models for course delivery. It is the domain of the teaching institution to determine the proportions of the synchronous and asynchronous components, the methods, and tools used for course delivery, and the assessment environment for the class."

Jackie Barker
Networking Academy Global Operations Manager
Teaching with NETLAB® and Elluminate®
Elluminate to Communicate
NETLAB to Collaborate

- Elluminate sessions for lectures, slides, and voice
  - Use breakout rooms for small groups
  - Record lectures for missing students

- NETLAB provides real-time access to shared routers
  - Academy topologies are loaded in routers
  - Students see work on all routers
  - Virtual hosts can ping on real routers and switches
  - Sessions are saved and logged for reference and instruction
Lab: 8-1 Configuring OSPF for IPv6
CCNP: Building Scalable Internetworks v5.0
- Participants meet on Elluminate using NETLAB pods
- Students communicate through headsets with microphones
- Other pods are available for independent practice