

## **7.0 Regional Access**

**Goal 7A.** Establish a distance education branch facility in Bend with a classroom, faculty offices, and a program director office. This facility will serve both credit and non-credit programs and will provide a laboratory setting for determining the best facility and staff composition and organization for distance learners in remote locations.

**Goal 7B.** Establish face-to-face program advisors in Central Oregon, Salem, and the Southern Coast.

### **Summary**

#### **Goal 7A. Establish a Distance Education Branch Facility in Bend, Oregon**

DCE focused on extending its services throughout Oregon community by establishing distance education branch facilities including program advising for distance learners in remote locations. These facilities have been established in Portland Regional Area, Central Oregon, Salem, and the Southern Region.

This project provided DCE with the ability to expand its programs, create new on-line courses, and have a high-profile presence throughout the state. Each term approximately 100 courses were available through the web, individualized learning, or video formats. In addition, DCE provided a total of 24 on-site courses and 3 interactive television courses at the Central Oregon Community College (COCC) campus located in Bend, Oregon.

Over the last year of this project, OSU was selected to manage the Oregon University System branch university campus in Bend (Central Oregon). DCE was credited as being a highly respected provider of education in Central Oregon and thus OSU being selected as the branch campus. This development had a major impact on policies and procedures regarding the delivery of distance education courses especially to the Central Oregon region, as well as for the operation of advising support. During this time, many changes have taken place with regard to DCE's involvement in the delivery of courses and degrees in the Central Oregon region. DCE has worked together with the leadership of the OSU Cascades Campus (OSU's Branch Campus in Bend, Oregon) to insure a smooth transition to the delivery of both campus based and DE courses to the OSU student body attending classes in Bend. DCE has been working with the branch campus administration to insure that an array of distance learning courses are available to branch campus students, especially for the first year of operation when on-site courses offered by the branch campus are limited. For this next year, distance education options will make up the substantial portion of the curriculum offered to students on the Branch OSU Cascades Campus.

#### **Goal 7B. Establish Face-To-Face (F2F) Program Advisors in Central Oregon, Salem, and the Southern Coast.**

The advising functions for Cascades Campus students have moved entirely to the on-site faculty and advising system established for the Cascades Campus. DCE continues to provide advising to students completing degrees primarily by distance education through the establishment of new f2f regional advisors. These are a 1.0 FTE Regional Advisor in the Portland-Willamette Valley and a .50 FTE Southern Oregon Regional Advisor. DCE is also initiating a new advising center located on the Corvallis campus and facilitated through various on-line student/advising services.

Historically, advising staff support for Distance and Continuing Education on-site in the Central Oregon region included an on-site distance education advisor. Advising personnel focused heavily upon student services that coordinated efforts for joint enrollments with Central Oregon Community College. The efforts were largely directed toward support for academic credit courses and degree program completion programs.

Currently, to adapt to the changing nature of the delivery of university wide efforts for Central Oregon, the DCE advising efforts have changed substantially. A Distance and Continuing Education Advising Center located on the OSU Corvallis campus, in the DCE offices, has been designed to serve centralized and decentralized regional student advising. To meet and address the goals and objectives for effective processes and working relationships as well as facilitating students' progress, an implementation manual has been written to provide structure to the operation of the DCE Advising Center, and includes budgetary, management goals and objectives, training information and policies and procedures. Recognizing the vital importance of consistent and congruent information to students, efforts are underway to develop and nurture understanding between the OSU Cascades Campus team and DCE Advising Center team. Clarifying, planning for and developing integrated information for advising and student service delivery for the Central Oregon region will be the overriding goal of those efforts.

Staffing will include advising and student service professionals, as well as office support staff. Regional advising staffing has been restructured in supervision and responsibilities to cover three major regions of Oregon: Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon and the Portland/Willamette Valley area. All personnel will be part of the DCE Advising Center team, directed by the Assistant Director of Academic Programs, and will be charged with assisting students in selecting both credit and non-credit course opportunities, support for joint relationships with regional community colleges, and the nurturing and development of relationships with new markets. The center began its operation on August 27, 2001.

The branch campus transition team completed an agreement for dual admission and joint enrollment with COCC this spring. All systems are in place for more seamless articulation of programs and for students to take courses from a variety of partners in the new branch campus. This will be especially important for financial aid, and will increase course options for students in all programs.

DCE regularly provided information and training to the support staff at the Central Oregon office. The staff was instrumental in the smooth implementation of the certificate programs that DCE offered in Central Oregon. DCE offered the Supervisory Leadership program at the facility in Bend, but did not find a cost-effective way to equip the center for a computer lab in order to offer the Web Design programs there. The computer lab at COCC were utilized for this purpose.