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Director of ACSDE and Editor of AJDE: Dr. Michael G. Moore.
DEOSNEWS Editor: Kenneth W. Borland, Jr.
DEOSNEWS Reviewer: Margaret A. Kobel

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On Being an Informed Reader of DEOSNEWS

Kenneth W. Borland, Jr.

Knowing more about a publication's owner and publisher as well as its "sister" publications is an often overlooked part of being an informed reader. We at DEOSNEWS believe that our readers and subscribers want to be informed readers of not only their print journals, but also their electronic ones. Therefore, this special edition of DEOSNEWS is being distributed to our subscribers and to the subscribers of DEOS-L. We hope that it helps you become a better informed reader of DEOSNEWS.

Penn State and The American Center for the Study of Distance Education

The American Center for the Study of Distance Education, with its publications The American Journal of Distance Education, Readings in Distance Education, The ACSDE Research Monograph Series, DEOSNEWS, and DEOS-L is based in an institution with a rich distance education heritage . . . The Pennsylvania State University.

Penn State, a Land Grant university and now a Big Ten member institution, has been involved in extension and continuing education for well over a century. The Division of Continuing Education's Independent Learning unit, one of the nation's largest, recently celebrated one-hundred years of service via correspondence study and currently enrolls over 60,000 students. The same division operates a statewide cable television education system called Pennarama which is available to all of the state's residents with basic cable television service.

The University, in looking to the future, established the University Task Force on Distance Education. That task force has stated:

national and international preeminence in distance education may prove to be a prerequisite to national and international preeminence in all other areas of academic enterprise. We are at a most important juncture in terms of the future of the University, and distance education is in the opinion of the Task Force a key deciding force in that future.

In the mid-1980s The College of Education approved and became the home of The American Center for the Study of Distance Education. Dr. Michael G. Moore, Director of the Center, is Associate Professor of Education in the university's graduate program of Adult Education. Dr. Moore is internationally respected as a scholar, author, consultant, and leader in the field of distance education. His colleagues in the Adult Education graduate program have joined him in making Adult Education and the Center national leaders in the academic study of distance education.

The activities of the Center include producing publications, networking,

researching, consulting, and providing leadership in the field of distance education. The Center, with funding from the Annenberg/Corporation for Public Broadcasting Project, convened two symposia one in 1988 and 1991. A select group of educational researchers were brought together at Penn State. The symposia provided a forum for sharing knowledge of past and present research and generated a collaborative spirit among the researchers for future research initiatives in distance education.

The informed reader will want to know more about the Center's resident publications. The following sections are offered for your information regarding these publications and how you can reach The American Center for the Study of Distance Education in The Pennsylvania State University's College of Education.

The American Journal of Distance Education & Readings in Distance Education

The American Journal of Distance Education is designed for professional trainers; teachers in schools, colleges, and universities; researchers; adult educators; and other specialists in education and communications. AJDE, created in 1987, disseminates information and acts as a forum for criticism and debate about research and practice of distance education in the Americas. It focuses on the latest program ideas, research, and developments in methods and systems for the delivery of education at a distance.

Distributed three times a year, the Spring, Summer, and Fall issues cover diverse topics. Topics include; program design, the nature of learning at a distance, characteristics of distant learners, effectiveness of distance education programs, the role of instructors, management and administration, evaluation and research, student support and counseling, special program areas and client groups, reviews of publications and software, reports on conferences, development of courses, and interviews with leading distance educators. The American Journal of Distance Education is in its seventh volume year.

Closely related to AJDE is the Readings in Distance Education services. The third volume of this series is a volume of selected articles from past issues of The American Journal of Distance Education. Number three, Distance Education for Corporate and Military Training, contains articles which are research grounded study materials that can be used in "Training the Trainers" programs.

ACSDE Research Monographs

This series of monographs is published in conformity with The American Center of Distance education's mission of promoting distance education research, study, scholarship, teaching, and serving as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of knowledge about distance education. It compliments the comprehensive scope of The American Journal of Distance Education by providing a forum for articles of a more technical or specialized nature.

The list of currently available items in the series includes seven diverse volumes. Three through seven are: A Survey of State-Level Involvement in Distance Education at the Elementary and Secondary Levels, Richard England; Distance Education Symposium: Selected Papers Part 1; Report on the Second American Symposium on Research in Distance Education; International Perspectives on Distance Education Research: Papers Presented at the Preconference Workshop, ICDE World Conference, Caracas, Venezuela, November 2-4 1990; Computer-Mediated Communication for Distance Education: An International Review of Design, Teaching, and Institutional Issues, Rosalie Wells, and; From Bulletin Boards to Electronic Universities, Morten F. Paulsen.

DEOS, The Distance Education Online Symposium

DEOS, The Distance Education Online Symposium is the electronic forum of The American Center for the Study of Distance Education. DEOS consists of two important parts: DEOSNEWS is the electronic journal of distance education and DEOS-L is an electronic forum dedicated to distance education. Since its founding by the Center's director with early support from the Annenberg/CPB Project, three graduate assistants have served as editors of DEOS.

Since 1991 DEOSNEWS has been published as often as once per week. Authors from the Americas and other continents have contributed to the field of distance education via this computer-mediated Journal. DEOSNEWS now has subscribers from forty-nine countries who number 1,402. In its third volume year, DEOSNEWS continues to be an important publication for its subscribers.

The interactive list-serve component of DEOS, DEOS-L, has 912 international subscribers. The professional and academic networking provided on DEOS-L has also contributed to the field of distance education. Discussions of current issues, research inquiries and assistance, announcements of conferences and open professional positions, etc. occur every week on DEOS-L. In October and November of 1992 DEOS-L was, as the largest list-serve related to distance education, fully involved in the Bangkok Project, the electronic portion of the 16th ICDE World Conference.

Reaching Us at ACSDE

Until just last week, if you wanted to reach The American Center for the Study of Distance Education you would have to call us on the phone, FAX us, write to us via land mail, drop in for a visit, or send e-mail to as many as half of a dozen addresses. While our phone and FAX numbers, and address have not changed, we are pleased to announce that a new, unified, and permanent e-mail address for The American Center for the Study of Distance Education has been established: ACSDE@PSUVM.PSU.EDU

If you as a reader want to be informed about our ongoing efforts, DEOS-L, DEOSNEWS, ACSDE Research Monograph Series, Readings in Distance Education, and The American Journal of Distance Education, contact us through e-mail at the new address for The American Center for the Study Distance Education.

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