

Learning Online In British Columbia

This conference is designed to promote debate among all the stakeholders in the area of online learning. Its purpose is to provide teachers, administrators and school districts information about the courses currently being delivered in British Columbia. Encouraging debate to promote greater cooperation in the areas of course creation, assessment of student learning, professional development for teachers and sharing learning objects used in course creation.

The goal of the conference is to promote greater understanding that online learning encompasses much more than distance learning and will soon have a more prominent role to play in local schools. Online courses will not only service students who live outside metropolitan centers but also metropolitan students who have scheduling conflicts or who have difficulty functioning in the regular programs. With the current pressures on facilities and the new graduation requirements which necessitate an increasing variety of courses, schools will need to examine alternative methods of course delivery. Schools may have to group students from a variety of school sites to offer all these courses. This conference is designed to promote discussion on how online and distance education courses can be facilitated and to showcase current instructional practices in British Columbia.

This conference provides an excellent opportunity for administrators/school principals and teachers to learn what is involved in online learning, to gain an understanding of the various groups in British Columbia that are currently offering online instruction and to understand some of the logistical and pedagogical challenges faced by schools that offer online courses. By viewing examples of current instructional strategies for online learning, teachers and principals will have a greater understanding of the possibilities and pitfalls in offering instruction online in British Columbia.

The conference is being held at the Metro Town Hilton in Burnaby on May 9 & 10, 2003. Dr. Rosina Smith, the Executive Director of the Alberta Online Consortium, is the keynote speaker for Saturday. Murray Goldberg, President and CEO of Silicon Chalk and UBC faculty will be the keynote speaker for Friday.

Special conference rates are in effect at the Hilton so delegates can bring their families and enjoy this first class facility located just across from the Metro Town Mall.

Sponsors

Apple Canada – will supply iBooks for presentation lab and to participants

Sun Microsystems – sponsor of Dr. Rosina Smith keynote and
will provide a copy of Star Office for all registrants

10 Minute Publisher

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Draw prizes will be courses from universities and colleges. We are already in discussions for a joint conference with BC4, Distance Ed PSA and CUEBC for next year.

Dr. Smith will be advertising the conference to the Alberta Consortium and will be issuing some invitations for presentations from Alberta. The main focus though is B.C. schools.

This conference is an excellent opportunity for CUEBC to offer leadership in an area that is growing quickly and to enable all of the stakeholders to work together to develop some common understanding.