

## **Distance Learning Videoconferencing:**

### **Facts You Should Know:**

A growing list of public and private institutions such as museums, zoos, historical societies and sites, etc. offer professional development and/or classroom enrichment sessions on a variety of topics.

You may find these by searching the web, reading professional journals and newsletters, and networking with other schools/teachers.

The distance learning room and portable videoconferencing unit in your buildings connect using the IP protocol and H.323 standard. This is often listed as a requirement on an institution's videoconferencing web site. Both the room and the portable cart can be used to connect to enrichment classes.

Charges for a distance learning enrichment session may range from zero to over two hundred dollars. Nebraska entities usually charge little or nothing to Nebraska schools.

You can contact staff ahead of time to discuss topics, presentation needs, etc. and most institutions offer additional curriculum materials. Some institutions will tailor the presentation to your needs. Contact information can be found on the web site of the institution.

Offerings change and web sites are updated. Any list of sites can and will change with no warning.

Most sites require you to make reservations three to four weeks ahead of schedule. They will work to accommodate your schedule, but the more flexible you can be, the better.

There are web sites that serve as directories or have search capabilities to aid you in your search for a meaningful class.

**To see a list of enrichment classes or better yet do a search, try these.**

### **The Nebraska Distance Learning Council web site**

<http://www.nebdec.org/education>

Click on the Enrichment Resources link. You can use the list of FAQ's to get directions to connect to some of the most popular sites, including NASA, Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress, the Henry Doorly Zoo and other Nebraska institutions. While you are at this site you may want to take the opportunity to find out what is going on with Distance Learning in Nebraska.

### **AT&T's Knowledge Network Explorer**

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/vidconf/adventures.html>

This site gives a long list of educational partners, links to their web sites, contact information and pricing. The list can be downloaded as a PDF document. Take a little time at this site, if you can. It has a wealth of resources for the classroom.

### **The Classroom Internet Library**

<http://www.nhptv.org/kn/vs/vc2.htm>

Videoconferencing opportunities are categorized according to subject. Pricing and contact information is listed and links to sites provided.

### **Southwest Net Distance Learning Site**

<http://www.berrienresa.org/technology/vc/>

This web site was put together by a consortium of school districts in three Michigan counties. By clicking on the "Search VC Programs" link, you can browse a long list of videoconferencing possibilities.

### **Center of Interactive Learning and Collaboration**

<http://www.cilc.org/search.aspx>

In addition to a search feature, this site allows you to register for the interactive classes you want. Search results display content available from public institutions and also from individuals who have put together an educational program such as a re-enactment of an historical figure.

### **Noodletrip**

<http://www.noodletrip.com>

This site also lets you do a search on a topic. It then arranges the results according to institution and allows you to link to the site for more details. You can register for a class directly from Noodletrip. You have to register for a free login to take advantage of advanced search features and use the registration function.

**Get your feet wet. Here are a few sites that have some great possibilities.**

### **Albany Institute of Art and History**

<http://www.albanyinstitute.org/>

Lots of historical offerings. For more information contact Tracy Grosner 518-463-4478 ext. 405 [education@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:education@albanyinstitute.org).

### **Akron Zoo**

<http://www.akronzoo.org/school/distance.asp>

The cost for receiving a class is \$75. This site offers programs for students in grades two through twelve. For information contact Carrie at 330-375-2550 ext. 8973 or

[cjbassett@akronzoo.org](mailto:cjbassett@akronzoo.org)

### **Henry Doorly Zoo – Omaha**

<http://www.omahazoo.com>

Click on the Education link, then "School Programs". Choose "Long Distance Learning".

Services are free to Nebraska schools. Contact information is 402-738-6903 or

[outreach@omahazoo.com](mailto:outreach@omahazoo.com)

### **Adler Planetarium – Chicago**

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/education/distancelearning/index.shtml>

This site features “Ask a Science Expert” and “Science Through the Arts at Adler” sessions. Registration is through [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org) or [www.noodletrip.com](http://www.noodletrip.com). For information contact Katie Peterson at 312-322-0333 or [kpeterson@adlerplanetarium.org](mailto:kpeterson@adlerplanetarium.org)

### **Global Education Motivators**

[www.gem-ngo.org](http://www.gem-ngo.org)

This web site offers some unusual programs including a session with one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. The GEM organization works in association with the United Nations Dept. of Public Information to provide sessions that will broaden your students’ view of the world. Click on the Videoconferences link at the left. It will expand to show the list of available sessions.

### **NASA**

<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/dln/index.html>

This catalog of NASA offerings is extensive and easy to search. This is a very popular site. Leave yourself plenty of time to schedule a class.