



▶ MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR1



▶ NEW ONLINE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2



▶ UPDATES FROM NEW AND CURRENT DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2

Distance Education

NEWS, FACTS, AND HAPPENINGS AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Message from the Director

I am very gratified and honored to serve as the first Executive Director of Distance Education at West Chester University. It's a very exciting time to be at West Chester University. With our strong enrollment, renowned academic programs, and distinguished faculty, I am confident we can stand out and succeed in today's increasingly competitive online education market.

The Office of Distance Education opened its door on July 5th, 2011. We function as a central office to serve the needs of distance education programs, faculty, and

students. We work closely with deans, chairs, and faculty to expand existing distance education programs as well as identify and develop new ones. The office offers a range of services including faculty development and support, instructional design and online pedagogy consultation, e-learning technology integration, as well as distance education program administration, monitoring, and promotion.

We want to invite you to drop by our office to discuss your needs for online and hybrid courses/programs.



We look forward to working with you to grow WCU's distance education future!

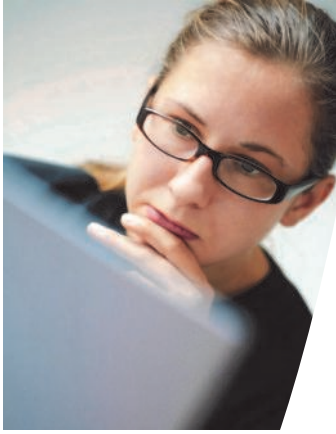
Dr. Rui Li



New Online Faculty Development Opportunities!

Distance Education Office along with the D2L Services Office will offer a Faculty Development Program for faculty members who are interested in developing or redesigning online/hybrid courses. This one and a half week program will take on a hybrid format. Attendees will meet at the beginning of the program for in-class lectures and technology trainings. The class will then be carried out online to provide faculty an opportunity to experience the life of online students. A call for participation will be sent out in November.

Mark your calendar! January 4– 13, 2012



New and Current Distance Education Programs

M.Ed. in Special Education and A New Graduate Certificate in Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology

The Department of Special Education is pleased to announce two new fully online programs: the M.Ed. in Special Education and a new graduate certificate in Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology. Both programs began in May 2011.

The new online format allows students from anywhere in the world to attend West Chester University. Courses are taught by Special Education faculty members as well as faculty from Communication Disorders and Educational Technology. Faculty will use Web-conferencing, streaming video, Web 2.0 tools, and small group discussions to provide an interactive learning experience to students regardless of location.

For additional information Contact Graduate Program Coordinator:
Dr. Vicki McGinley:
vmcginley@wcupa.edu

Students in the new online programs will be participating in an iPad pilot program. Each student will be loaned an iPad for the duration of the program. This pilot program will enable them to have hands on experience with some of the assistive technology apps that are available for special education students. The iPads were purchased with funding from the Tech Fee.

Updates from MBA Program

What's old is new again with West Chester University's MBA Program. Our highly affordable, AACSB accredited MBA Program is starting their new 7-week modules beginning in January. Spring I will begin on January 23, 2012 and Spring II session will start on March 19, 2012. Offering two delivery options, online or through our blended-in-class option, it is flexible and convenient for everyone.



Did You Know?

- Nearly 30% of higher education students now take at least one course online (Sloan Consortium Survey, 2010).
- In 2009-2010 academic year, online enrollments had a growth rate of 21%, which far exceeds the less than 2% growth of the overall higher education student population (Sloan Consortium Survey, 2010).
- Over one-third of faculty have taught online (APLU-Sloan National Faculty Survey, 2009).
- 56% of all faculty (those with online experience and those with none) have recommended an online course to at least one student or advisee (APLU-Sloan National Faculty Survey, 2009).



Contact Us

Office of Distance Education

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Fall 2011 Distance Education Enrollment Data

- 13 online courses (206 students)
- 3 hybrid courses (91 students)
- 4 iTV courses (25 students)



DISTANCE EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE

November 3rd
1:30pm - 3:00pm
Sykes Ballroom C

Come to find out what WCU faculty have been doing in distance education!

Chat and learn from our own experts!

Contact us if you are interested in showcasing your online/hybrid course experience in the open house!