

# The NCDLA e-letter

Volume 5, Number 4 Spring 2008

## Highlights of the 2008 DLA/NCDLA Conference

This year's Distance Learning Alliance/NCDLA conference held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention & Visitors Center April 2, 3, and 4, was an unqualified success. With attendance up significantly (close to 300 attendees), excellent keynote addresses, informative presentations and vendor displays (not to mention the wonderful meals provided by local New Bern restaurants!) the conference was a truly memorable experience.



*Ed Shearin and Joe Alley*

Over 45 presenters shared their expertise in over 50 presentations on topics that ranged from mobile learning to videoconferencing; podcasting and screencasting to virtual advising; copyright law to online virtual reality. It was three days filled with timely and useful information on a wide variety of topics important to distance educators everywhere.

Keynote speaker Mark David Milliron, CEO of Catalyze Learning International discussed future challenges in education. The president of the United States Distance Learning Association, Marci Powell, shared her views on emerging issues related to



*Jeanne Whisnant and Sharon Stalls enjoy the gardens at Tryon Palace*

distance learning in the United States.

Not only did the various presenters share information on wide variety of distance education topics, they also represented a number of

learning institutions throughout the state. Individuals and groups representing The NC Community College System, the North Carolina Community College Television Association, and the UNC-GA TLT Collaborative made presentations, as did representatives of Bladen Community College; Blue Ridge Community College; Carteret Community College; Central Carolina Community College; Central Piedmont Community College; Chowan Community College, Craven Community College; East Carolina University; Fayetteville Technical Community College; Gaston County Schools; Haywood Community College; Johnston Community College; NC School of Science and Mathematics; North Carolina State University; North Carolina Virtual Public School; Pitt Community College; Roanoke-Chowan Community College; Stanley Community College; Wake Technical Community College; Western Carolina University; and Wilkes Community College. The sharing of experience, research results, and technical expertise among so many of our state's educators makes the DLA/USDLA conference an important event for anyone involved in distance learning.

Hats off to conference chair Joe Alley, NCDLA president Warren McDonald, and conference planner Cindy Pannill for all of their efforts on behalf of this year's DLA/NCLDA conference.

Next year's conference will be held at the New Bern Conference Center, April 22, to 24. Be sure to mark your calendar!

Submitted by Abbie Brown, Ph.D. Associate Professor: East Carolina University [brownab@ecu.edu](mailto:brownab@ecu.edu)



*Gov. William Tryon, first governor of NC, and Cindy Pannill*

## North Carolina Virtual Public School and Learn and Earn Online: Leading 21st Century Learning in the LEA

The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS/LEO) has begun an exciting journey to bring online learning opportunities to middle and high school students. After launching in the summer of 2007, NCVPS/LEO has served over 15,000 students. In January 2008, thanks to the leadership of Gov. Mike Easley and the NC General Assembly, students can also earn college credits through Learn & Earn Online and NCVPS is proud to support Learn and Earn Online (LEO) as a part of the opportunities we offer to North Carolina students.



Integrating virtual learning into the fabric of middle and high school education has its challenges. NCVPS/LEO is currently working with 10 school districts in Wave 1 of

a pilot roll out to address these challenges and create best practices for removing barriers to online learning. These districts are working to establish virtual learning as part of their registration and student support routines in order to effectively address scheduling conflicts, but more importantly to provide access to rigorous courses that the district may not be able to provide locally. "Virtual learning requires not just a top down model of what 21st Century success looks like, rather these unique pilots forge an innovation partnership for state leadership and school districts to collaborate on what is possible for the 21st Century learner", quotes Dr. Bryan Setser, Executive Director for NCVPS/LEO and newly elected NCDLA Board Member.

These districts will receive intensive leadership training focus on the strategic stakeholders for virtual learning in the district. Training will involve planning calendars, meeting budget requirements for textbooks and materials and supporting students through innovative tools and strategies. In addition, the districts will be part of the pilot development of a credit recovery model that NCVPS plans on scaling

to a state-wide program.

"It is our strong belief that by working hand in hand with these pilot districts, we can test best practices and develop a strong model that we can integrate into all of our districts and even charter schools that will better prepare them for supporting virtual learning", comments David Edwards, Chief Communications and Professional Development Officer.

So what online opportunities are available for students in North Carolina?

North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) - [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)

NCVPS offers high school course credit to middle and high school students who want to complete core courses, Advanced Placement courses, Honors courses, and/or credit recovery courses to complete the requirements of a high school diploma and to enhance their transcripts for college applications.

Learn and Earn Online (LEO) - <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/learnandearnonline/>

LEO is a dual credit program that awards high school and college credit to students attending public schools in North Carolina. Students may take courses from any of the 45 participating NC Community Colleges or UNC Greensboro's iSchool Program.

For more information on NCVPS and Learn and Earn Online and the Wave 1 pilots, please visit our new website at [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org).

Submitted by David M. Edwards, MAEd.  
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## NCDLA Partners with USDLA to Develop New Online Award Nomination Process

April 3, 2008 NCDLA awarded DLA awards this year to four category groups, instead of two. NCDLA partnered with USDLA to develop the national model for state and national award nomination and selection process. Reggie Smith, USDLA awards committee chair worked with Kay Zimmerman, NCDLA awards committee chair, and BennieTschoerner from Texas DLA to develop the first online awards submission website. The pilot project was completed in record time, two months, and ready for the 2008 awards process by mid-December. Also new to the process was the inclusion of the USDLA awards nomination categories and criteria.

The four new categories include: Best Practices in Distance Learning, Outstanding Leadership in the field of Distance Learning, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching and 21st Century Best Practices in Distance Learning.

The nominations included representation from K-20 colleagues throughout the state. Thank you to the nominations committee for their work. The award winners received recognition at the NCDLA conference in New Bern.

**Congratulations to this year's NCDLA award winners!**

### Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming Award

***The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Division of Continual Learning Online Development Team***



**Warren McDonald and Bob Prout**

History can be a “dry” subject that challenges even the most devoted students. UNCG online developers have overcome that hurdle with two new Western Civilization courses that bring history to life and keep students engaged. Both immerse students in entertaining, Web-based scenarios. In Western Civilization 101, they become members of an Interpol taskforce exploring the theft of valuable artifacts, while in 102 they learn to appraise items with potential historical significance in a takeoff of the popular “Antiques Roadshow.”

### Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Award

***East Carolina University LSIT Podcast Research Group***



***Abbie Brown, Kenneth Luterbach, Carol Brown, William Sugar, and John Swope***

Eleven faculty members in East Carolina University's Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology have spent the past year collaborating to experiment with incorporating podcasts, digital video, and screencasts into their online courses. The faculty members teach in three graduate degree programs offered entirely online. The course content and feedback has been traditionally delivered using text-based learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard); the group is breaking new ground by making use of a variety of new technologies to present content and to provide instructor feedback on students' efforts.

The group is experimenting with a number of innovative delivery methods, including audio podcasts, digital video clips, and screencasting. Students are remarking positively on these efforts. The group's goals include improvement of course content and end-user experience; increasing the sense of instructor "presence" that students feel; and providing alternative presentations that appeal to audio/visual learners.

## 21st Century Best Practice Distance Learning Award

### *The University of North Carolina Online Development Team*



*Paul Kaufman, Kay Zimmerman, Jim Sadler, Amanda Baines, and Simgn Brown*

America's oldest public University has launched its new online academic partnership between the 16 constituent campuses. Vision, leadership and an understanding for new educational opportunities is the strategy to unify North Carolina's public institutions. Responding to the growing statewide demand for affordable access to quality higher education, The University of North Carolina Online, an online academic partnership that provides convenient one-stop access to more than 160 online degrees, certificates, and licensure programs is collaboratively provided by the 16 UNC campuses. This vast collection of online UNC degree programs, including over 1500+ online college courses, is one of the largest available in the US.

The portal reflects the tradition of The University of North Carolina enabling each campus to emphasize its unique strengths and distinguishing features while providing coordinated functions and services at the system level.

## Excellence in Leadership in the field of Distance Learning

### *Dr. Tom Miller, NCSU-DELTA*



*Dr. Tom Miller*

Thomas Kenan Miller III is currently serving as Vice Provost for Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA) at NCSU. In his role as Vice Provost, Dr. Miller is responsible for strategy, deployment, and implementation of the university's learning technologies and distance education programs.

His efforts earlier this decade to work with UNC General Administration to involve other UNC system campuses in the annual NC State distance education technology conference was one of the first steps to begin a system-wide dialog on innovations in distance education. Dr. Miller's leadership in implementing the technologically delivered NCSU baccalaureate completion program in Mechatronics to the UNC Asheville campus resulted in an early success that demonstrated the potential for UNC institutions to collaborate in offering resource efficient and effective distance education programs. His leadership in the DELTA office has not only enabled NC State to assume a leadership role in distance education but has demonstrated a level of campus coordination that serves as a model for other universities.

Dr. Miller has been a strong and articulate advocate for increasing access to higher education and for quality in distance learning. On the North Carolina e-Learning Commission and the UNC Online Quality Council, Dr. Miller's analysis, ideas, and recommendations have helped shape policies and procedures regarding distance learning in North Carolina. He has also served on the NC Information Technology Advisory Board (appointed by the Governor) and the eLearning Policy Group for the UNC System. His advice is sought out and highly respected by officials in government as well as in academia.

Submitted by Kay Zimmerman

## NCDLA Takes Pride in Two USDLA Award Winners

NCDLA for the first time has two state award winners at the national level who were presented with the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) 2008 International Distance Learning Awards. The USDLA International Awards program honored outstanding individuals and organizations for excellence in the field of distance learning, education and training on April 22, 2008, at the national conference.

### Outstanding Leadership by an Individual in the Field of Distance Learning Award

Dr. Tom Miller, North Carolina State University Vice Provost for Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA), was honored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) with the world's most prestigious individual distance learning award for Outstanding Leadership by an Individual in the Field of Distance Learning.

### Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming Award

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Division of Continual Learning Online Development Team was honored with the world's most prestigious distance learning award for the USDLA Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming Award. Dr. Nora Reynolds, Assistant Dean, accepted the award on behalf of UNCG.

These prestigious International Awards are presented annually to organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. Included in the recognition ceremony were awards for 21st Century Best Practice, Best Practice for Distance Learning Programming, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching, Outstanding Leadership by an Individual, Hall of Fame and Eagle Awards.

"As a premier leader for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring Dr. Tom Miller and the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Division of Continual Learning Online Development Team," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. "They have raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by their contributions to the distance learning profession."

The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies. In addition, winners will be recognized in USDLA's Distance Learning Today quarterly supplement during National Distance Learning Week, November 10-14, 2008.



**Marci Powell – President USDLA, Tom Miller, Nora Reynolds, John Flores – CEO of USDLA**

## Parks Todd Distance Learning Educator Award

Parks Todd was for many years a leader and inspiration in the NC Community College System Office. A wonderful story teller, a receptive listener, and a deep thinker, Parks spearheaded the development of Distance Learning at the System Office level. Annually the Distance Learning Alliance presents the Parks Todd Award to individuals who have shown leadership extending the reach of distance learning programs at the local, state, and/or national level. Daniel Inayat "D.I." von Briesen and Alan J. Questell were the 2008 recipients.

D.I. von Briesen pioneered the use of Moodle and Second Life for the NCCCS. Along with his teaching duties, D.I. is Director of the Futures Institute at CPCC, which was developed to provide a forum for investigation, education and research focused on socio-economic, technological, and educational trends and developments.



***D.L. von Briesen***

D.I., that tall guy in the Moodle shirt, has been in the forefront of distance education for years, heading his program and leading the way with Moodle, Skype, Second Life and other methods/products. He strikes

out on the road to 21st century education, and others fall in line. D.I. exemplifies the qualities of ethical leadership and excellence in teaching for which the Parks Todd Award was created.

Alan Questell is a seasoned professional who has spent his entire teaching career serving the students of Richmond Community College and serving his colleagues, both at RCC and a range of nearby colleges, by sharing his knowledge of the tools and pedagogies associated with distance learning. Beyond the scope of his teaching and distance learning coordinator assignments, he has been a frontline participant in the distance learning initiative

in the state throughout his tenure. He has served on committees to promote distance education and has been an instrumental source of leadership for his college and has gleaned every key idea from his experiences in statewide conferences to better serve the DL student.

Already a computer-savvy professional in the textile realm before taking a position with the Business Department at Richmond and quickly rising to the Department Chair level in 1990, Questell was the first person on the campus to recognize that a vast population of under-served students might benefit from connection via the internet.



***Alan Questell***

Thus, he proposed, prompted, and promoted a DL presence for the college that has yielded a tangible and positive impact on his college and on his community. Questell's acumen and leadership has impacted RCC's ability to expand course offerings beyond the limitations of space and time.

## IVC Workshop in Durham June 16-17, 2008

The Interactive Videoconference (IVC) Workshop: A Tool for 21st Century Learning will be held June 16 and 17 at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC.

Instructors, facilitators, administrators and counselors are invited to participate and learn how IVC is used to develop North Carolina's "Future-Ready" students. Plan to attend to experience videoconferences with state and national content providers, to learn strategies to promote IVC programming in your school and to participate in hands-on training with IVC technology.

According to last year's attendees, highlights of the workshop were: the way you assembled workshop info/presentations in an easy accessible format on flash drives; the videoconferencing with expert



**2007 attendees get hands on training**

speakers; seeing the tools and how they work, the practical examples, networking information, and time to interact with other participants.

To register, go to <http://ncssm.infonowonline.org> For questions, contact Carole Stern, [stern@ncssm.edu](mailto:stern@ncssm.edu)

## Interview with author, Frances O'Roark Dowell



Students from Wiley Middle School, Walkertown Middle and Kannapolis Middle School spent April 30th interviewing Frances O'Roark Dowell. The author of seven novels, Ms. Dowell is a popular writer of middle grades books. Her first novel, *Dovey Coe*, won the Edgar Award for best juvenile mystery.

Meeting by videoconference, Ms. Dowell spoke from a classroom at NCSSM in Durham, her hometown while the students were seated in three different schools half way across the state. Over a six week period the students prepared for the interview by reading Ms. Dowell's books and they developed a list of questions. After a brief introduction, the students took turns talking with Ms. Dowell. Which book is

your favorite? How do you pick names for your characters? Why do you write kids' books? Why did you choose to use North Carolina as the setting for your book? The hour long videoconference passed quickly as Ms. Dowell explained her responses and shared her experience with the students.



**Frances  
O'Roark Dowell**

When the time was up, the students gave Ms. Dowell a loud round of applause. What did the teacher think? "Wow! What an amazing experience! Our students LOVED the conference and the format of videoconference."

submitted by Carole Stern  
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## SAS® Curriculum Pathways®: Expanding Educational Opportunity

Higher education leaders face the challenge of preparing students for an increasingly competitive, knowledge-based global economy. SAS Curriculum Pathways [www.sascurriculumpathways.com] can help to meet that challenge for a diverse population of adult learners who need access to a broad range of research, review, and remediation materials. **Available free** of charge in North Carolina to community colleges and to public and charter schools (grades 8-12), the product provides online instructional materials that support students with varying strengths, preferences, and gaps in understanding.

Curriculum Pathways is designed to enhance student achievement and teacher effectiveness in all the core disciplines: English, mathematics, science, history and Spanish. Ten years in the making, the award-winning online product is the result of an unprecedented collaboration between teachers and technology experts to provide instructional activities and tools that help:

- Teach a diverse student population
- Provide busy adult learners with around-the-clock access to learning materials
- Engage students and enable them to take ownership of their own learning
- Use research-validated instructional techniques
- Implement learner-centered activities with measurable outcomes
- Utilize interactive materials that target higher-order thinking skills

The product provides multiple learning paths through a lesson or unit, and satisfies individual teaching and learning needs by:

- Integrating various instructional strategies
- Providing real-world examples to use for problem solving
- Appealing to multiple learning styles
- Incorporating tailored feedback to students

The tools, lessons, and resources in Curriculum Pathways are grounded in the principles of cognitive science. Our InterActivities focus on material

difficult to convey through conventional methods—topics where doing, seeing, and listening provide information and encourage insights in ways that textbooks cannot.

- Science—Virtual labs clarify concepts in novel ways. Dangerous, difficult, expensive or time-consuming experiments are no longer off-limits.
- Math—Students visualize key concepts while practicing fundamental skills. Interactive features, animations and immediate feedback can mean the difference between comprehension and despair.
- Social studies—A unique case study approach encourages critical thinking about complex issues. Audio and video stimulate interest and encourage rigorous scholarship.
- English—Audio and visual materials enhance reading comprehension, while detailed questions help students think critically about what they read. Model essays and an interactive writing tool help students organize, develop, and revise their work.
- Spanish—Students enhance reading, listening and writing skills by immersing themselves in practical situations. Assessment materials let students monitor their progress.

“I didn’t understand mitosis when it was introduced in class,” says one biology student. “But when we went in the lab and worked with Cell Division [in Curriculum Pathways] I did. I also used [the product] to review for the test. I didn’t have to ask the teacher to go over it again. I could go back on my own.”

That’s the kind of feedback Curriculum Pathways is evoking from students in all disciplines. “SAS is developing the kind of resources I’d develop if I had



more time, more funding and unlimited access to current technologies,” says English teacher Karen Burden.

For more information see  
[www.sascurriculumpathways.com](http://www.sascurriculumpathways.com) or contact:  
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## UNC Teaching and Learning Conference

The annual UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) Conference provides a statewide forum to network and exchange information about the effective use of technology for teaching and learning. The 2008 UNC TLT Conference was held March 12 – 14 at the Hilton North Raleigh hotel, and with over 540 registered participants, the 2008 Conference was the best attended UNC TLT Conference to date!

The Conference theme this year was Mix It Up! Creative Combinations for Learning in North Carolina. With over 130 presentations and workshops, the Conference explored a variety of innovative blends of people, places, research, technology, policy, and approaches for teaching and learning.

Plenary speakers for the 2008 Conference were Richard Baraniuk, Victor E. Cameron Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University and founder of the Connexions website (cnx.org), and Robyn Render, UNC Vice President for Information Resources and CIO.

A selection of programs from the conference are viewable by webcast at <http://conference.uncctl.org/conference/Webcast/2008webcast.htm>. Dr. Baraniuk's keynote on Connexions (cnx.org) described ways "authors, educators, and learners worldwide to "create, rip, mix, and burn" textbooks, courses, and learning materials from a global open-access repository."

For more information about the 2008 Conference visit <http://conference.uncctl.org>.



## DISTANCE EDUCATION

CONNECTING CAROLINA TO YOUR HOMETOWN

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



### Update on Distance Education in the UNC System

In April Vice President Alan Mabe presented the NCDLA 21st Century Best Practice award to President Erskine Bowles, who was very appreciative that The University of North Carolina Online team received this recognition from the State's distance education professionals. The University of North Carolina will continue to develop in the coming year with an updated module for community college transfer students and a new module for high school students taking online higher education courses. An inter-institutional course registration data exchange system will be in place by August, enabling students at one UNC institution to enroll in a seamless and transparent manner in online courses offered by another UNC campus.

In May, UNC-GA submitted its fifth biennial report on expanding access to higher education through distance education. Since the General Assembly first funded UNC distance education in 1998, growth in distance education has been phenomenal. Prior to 1998, North Carolina was the only state in the 16-state Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) region that did not provide distance education funding for its university system. The enrollment funding has enabled UNC campuses to make crucial investments in faculty training, staff support, and information technology that are needed to offer high-quality instruction in a rapidly evolving and expanding distance education environment.

The unduplicated number of individuals enrolled in UNC distance education courses increased by 538 percent from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2007—from 6,929 individuals to 44,225. Distance education course offerings increased 572 percent from fall 1998 (the first year distance education enrollment funding was provided) to fall 2007—from 412 course sections to 2,767.

UNC constituent institutions offer 266 site-based degree programs in 53 North Carolina counties, which are taught at 28 North Carolina Community College campuses, public school settings, Area Health Education Centers and other health care settings, UNC graduate centers, and North Carolina military bases. Particular attention is being given to high needs areas without a UNC campus nearby, such as the Hickory, Rocky Mount, and Jacksonville areas.

UNC online degree programs are rapidly increasing, growing from 6 online programs in spring 2000 to 167 online degree, certificate, and licensure programs listed on The University of North Carolina Online in spring 2008. Online enrollments are increasing in proportion of overall distance education student credit hours (SCH's) taught. For fall 2007, out of 126,864 total distance education SCH's, 89,471 (70.5 percent) were delivered online.

In spring 2007, students who are 26 and older accounted for 82.3 percent of distance education enrollments compared to only 23.3 percent of on-campus enrollments. This indicates that UNC distance education programs are reaching non-traditional higher education audiences who otherwise would not have access to these programs. A growing percentage of distance education enrollments are minority students; from 2003 to 2007 the percentage of African-American students increased from 14.5 percent to 19.1 percent.

UNC-General Administration e-learning grants have supported faculty development, collaborative online courses and degree programs, and development of distance degree programs that are responsive to critical needs of the state. Almost a third of all distance education instruction, for instance, is in the area of teacher education. UNC-GA is coordinating a number of initiatives related to online teacher education support, development of articulated 2+2 degree programs with the community colleges, coordination of information resources infrastructure, degree consortia and joint degree programs,

outreach to NC military bases, and the Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative.

UNC constituent institutions ensure that they provide the same quality of instruction to distance education students as to on-campus students through a variety of assessment and evaluation procedures. Each UNC campus chief academic officer has appointed a representative to serve on a UNC Online Quality Council that meets periodically to discuss online quality standards, faculty development activities, student support services, and other relevant topics.

Careful needs assessments are conducted before programs are developed, and programs authorized are those that would be most beneficial for the economic growth and vitality of North Carolina communities. Consultation with other state partners (e.g., the North Carolina Community College System, public school systems, Area Health Education Centers [AHEC], and professional associations) in planning and delivering quality

distance education programs is a high priority. The current UNC Tomorrow initiative will have important implications for UNC distance education in the areas of priority setting and resource efficiency and will guide continued expansion of higher education access made available to North Carolina's citizens.

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## NCDLA Board for 2008-2009

On April 3, 2008 the NCDLA membership voted on a new Board of Directors. The new Board responsibilities include promoting the development and application of distance learning in education and training. Our mission is to serve those involved in teaching with technology at a distance at all levels:

K-12, community colleges, colleges and universities, government, and business organizations. We are all here to serve the needs of the membership. Please let us know your thoughts. We want to hear what we are doing right, and if we need some guidance, then by all means let us know that as well.

### **2008-2009 NCDLA Board**

#### **President**

Kay Zimmerman  
North Carolina State University

#### **Vice President**

Dr. Allan Jordan  
Granville County Public Schools

#### **Treasurer**

Jeanne Whisnant  
Johnston Community College

#### **Secretary**

Emily Castleberry  
UNC-TV

#### **K-12 Representative**

Dr. Bryan Setser  
NC Virtual Public Schools

#### **Community College Representative**

Bob Ervin  
Fayetteville Technical Community College

#### **University Representative**

Dr. Abbie Brown  
East Carolina University

#### **Government / Business Representative**

Janie Best  
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

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## Letter from the President of the NCDLA

Welcome to the North Carolina Distance Learning Association site. NCDLA is a chapter of the United States Distance Learning Association. We represent individuals and organizations involved in the exciting world of Distance Education across the state of North Carolina. Our mission is to serve those involved in teaching with technology at a distance at all levels: K-12, community colleges, colleges and universities, government, and business organizations. We encourage you to become a member of this exciting organization, and invite you to participate in our conference and activities throughout the year.

As president, I am excited about the opportunity to work with the Board of Directors, and each of you, to continue growing the membership, serving as a central conduit for Best Practices in teaching with technology and DE, as well as increasing the interaction with NC Virtual Public Schools, NCCCS, NC3DLA, UNC DL Forum and the UNC TLT Collaborative. NCDLA serves as the primary organization for Distance Learning in North Carolina. This year's conference was a success and we want to expand and grow it to new heights. We encourage your involvement and participation! Collaboration with all of groups involved in Distance Learning together will benefit K-20 Distance Learning in North Carolina.

The Board of Directors is made up of quality individuals with a depth and breadth of knowledge of Distance Learning that is unprecedented. We are all here to serve the needs of the membership. Please let us know your thoughts. We want to hear what we are doing right, and if we need some guidance, then by all means let us know that as well. This is your organization. Let's all work together to make it the very best it can be.

Please contact us to become an active member in NCDLA.

Best regards,  
Kay Zimmerman

**2008-2009 NCDLA President**



The NCDLA e-letter is a publication of the  
North Carolina Distance Learning Association  
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