

Key Points of Panel Presentation on Virtual Learning  
Tech Forum -- October 10, 2002

PART ONE – TEACHERS AND ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- ÿ Online instruction is the future of education in the coming years. For some school districts it is already a given fact of life.
- ÿ The business community has jumped onto the online course bandwagon and is charging districts per student to take their courses.
- ÿ No one understands their students as well as the teachers who teach them.
- ÿ Creation of online courses should be seen as a necessity, not a luxury.
- ÿ Having teachers develop their own online courses can be painless and very rewarding.
- ÿ Teachers can learn to create full-blown and hybrid online courses to match the needs of their students and their own instructional style.
- ÿ I have devised a template – QOC – Quality Online Courses which teachers follow to create their courses. It is enclosed.
- ÿ All courses are:
  - highly interactive
  - student centered whether it be adult or child
  - project oriented
  - demonstrated assessment
  - aligned with state standards
- ÿ Screen shots from some teacher-made courses. Enclosed for booklet and website.
- ÿ URL for Marquette University's Online Website: [www.mu.edu/online](http://www.mu.edu/online).
- ÿ URL for Leadership Online for the "Spinning Your Web Classroom" course: [www.leadership-online.com](http://www.leadership-online.com).

PART TWO – STUDENTS AND ONLINE LEARNING

- ÿ I have a workshop presentation entitled: "From Teacher Brain to Student Website."
- ÿ In this workshop I take teachers through the process of creating an online course.
- ÿ The course consists of one to four modules.
- ÿ They in turn facilitate this course with a group of students.
- ÿ The student final project is the creation of a module they put onto a website which they will teach to another group of students.
- ÿ This concept was piloted using an online US History course with 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. They took the history course online and then created their own modules using a topic they were interested in.
- ÿ They used Netscape Composer to create their websites. You can view here: <http://www2.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/wcll/module.html>  
Scroll down and click on the individual courses. Each student taught his/her module to three other students in the same school.
- ÿ I have enclosed a template that I gave to the students to help them organize their thoughts and their website.

PART THREE – SCREEN SHOTS OF THE "SPINNING YOUR WEB CLASSROOM" ONLINE COURSE AND "FUN Project" AN ONLINE COURSE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Enclosed please find:

1. screen shots from the adult “Spinning Your Web Classroom” online course
2. screen shots from a health and exercise online course in English and Spanish for middle school students entitled “FUN Project”. In English FUN is Fitness and Nutrition for U. In Spanish FUN is Nutricion y Fisica para Usted.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS FROM THE EXPERTS IN DISTANCE LEARNING

“Cyberspace. A consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts.... A graphical representation of data abstracted from the banks of every computer in the human system. Unthinkable complexity.”

Gibson, W. (1984). *Neuromancer*. New York: Ace.

“...The new messages emerging from these new media can dramatically improve instructional outcomes, but such an evolution of educational practice depends on careful design of the interface among the devices, learners, and teachers.”

Dede, C. (1996). Emerging technologies and distributed learning. *American Journal of Distance Education*, 10(2), 4-36.

### READING LIST: (A sample)

LESSONS FROM THE CYBERSPACE CLASSROOM (The Realities of Online Teaching) by Rena M. Palloff and Keith Pratt

ONLINE EDUCATION (Learning and Teaching in Cyberspace) by Greg Kearsley

TEACHING ONLINE: A Practical Guide by Susan Ko and Steve Rossen

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE STUDENT by Sara Dulaney Gilbert

TEACHING ONLINE by William A. Draves

BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN CYBERSPACE (Effective Strategies for the Online Classroom) by Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt

THE ONLINE TEACHING GUIDE (A Handbook of Attitudes, Strategies, and Techniques for the Virtual Classroom) by Ken White and Bob Weight