



SUNY

THE STATE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW YORK

SUNY Online Learning Network Enrollment Hits All-Time High

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Spring and summer enrollments reach new records

ALBANY – State University of New York Chancellor Robert L. King today announced that in the 2003-2004 school year enrollments in the award-winning SUNY Learning Network, the online learning arm of the State University, reached an all-time high of 70,669, up 32 percent from 2002-2003's record enrollment of 53,638.

Furthermore, the spring 2004 semester set a new SLN record with a total of 28,201 enrollments, the largest single semester enrollment level ever. This is an increase of 28 percent from the spring semester 2003 enrollment of 21,993.

More than 16,000 enrollments in SLN are estimated in 1,000 courses for summer 2004, up 40 percent from last year and the largest summer enrollment ever in SLN.

“SUNY Learning Network’s record-breaking enrollment growth is a testament to the first-rate instructional programs taught at the State University of New York,” said Chancellor King. “The SLN is an outstanding success because the courses offered through the Network are developed and taught by our superb faculty, not some outside source.”

SUNY Learning Network now has 70,669 enrollments by 41,000 students in more than 4,000 courses and 60 degree and certificate programs, taught by professors on 56 campuses. In SLN’s first academic year, 1995-96, the online learning network enrolled 119 students in eight courses on two campuses. To date, more than 2000 SUNY professors have developed and taught courses through the SUNY Learning Network.

"The SUNY Learning Network has become an integrated instructional component of the State University's campuses," said State University Provost Peter D. Salins. "SUNY faculty both develop and teach the courses; their foundation in the academic programs of each campus underlies the success of this model."

"The cooperation and support we have received from the SUNY campuses participating in SLN has been essential to the continued growth of the program" said Peter Shea, director of the SUNY Learning Network. "The success of SLN is due to the collaborative efforts of more than 2000 faculty and staff who are passionate about developing high quality online courses and programs."

"The successes we have announced today are just the beginning," said David Porush, executive director of Learning Environments. "SLN continues to have enormous potential for our campuses and the University as a whole. This year we are for the first time serving the entire spectrum of learning online, including blended and hybrid courses and we are beginning a new round of technological, service and program enhancements that will launch the next generation of this invaluable resource."

The Sloan-C consortium of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in September 2002 awarded the SUNY Learning Network its award for "Excellence in Institution-Wide ALN Programming." Asynchronous Learning Networks, ALN, are networks for anytime/anywhere learning. SUNY Learning Network was cited because of its ability "to bring SUNY's diverse, high-quality instructional programs within the reach of learners everywhere."

The Sloan Foundation has provided more than \$4 million in funding for SLN since its founding in 1995.

In August, 2002, the Sloan Foundation awarded the SUNY Learning Network a \$100,000 grant to host a national workshop on distance learning that was held at Lake George, NY in September 2002. More than forty people from nearly 30 institutions including the University of Illinois and the United States Army attended this fourth annual workshop.

The not-for-profit EDUCAUSE gave its "Award for Systemic Progress in Teaching and Learning" in 2001 to the SLN. The award recognizes higher education programs and practices that use information technologies to support learner-centered teaching and learning in ways that are "transformative, sustainable, and replicable."

The most recent surveys indicate that nearly 90 percent of students reported high levels of satisfaction with their SLN online courses and 95 percent reported satisfaction with the overall SLN program. In addition approximately 80 percent of students reported spending more time studying online due to the "anytime-anyplace" nature of the courses. Of those students reporting additional study time, more than 76 percent felt that the additional time helped them learn more.

Surveys of faculty also indicate success. More than 97 percent of faculty would teach online again through SLN and more than 95 percent reported satisfaction with the experience of teaching an online course. Additionally, approximately 71 percent of faculty felt that the experience of designing, developing and teaching an online course through SLN had a positive effect on how they teach in the classroom.

Additional information on SLN [at <http://sln.suny.edu/>].

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States with nearly 410,000 students enrolled in 6,688 fields of study on 64 campuses.

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