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**Bringing the  
classroom  
to the world!**

# Brenton Center

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## Distance Education Grants



**Gaylan Scofield, Ph.D.**  
**Director : Brenton Center  
& College of Agriculture  
& Life Sciences Distance  
Education**

Distance Education Grant proposals are due November 15, 2007. The purpose of the grant program is to extend and strengthen College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Distance Education offerings.

Our overall objective is to increase student credit hours in Distance Education. Additional objectives are to improve the quality of credit offerings delivered at a distance; increase the number of courses for distance delivery; increase the shelf life of offerings; and to extend offerings beyond the State of Iowa.

Grant proposals may be submitted for:

- (1) new Master's program or the conversion of existing Master's programs to an on-line format (up to \$50,000)
- (2) new certificates (up to \$40,000)
- (3) new or conversion of existing courses (up to \$9,000)

A total of two proposals will be funded. Individual courses will be funded based on available resources.

Complete information can be found at:  
<http://www.brenton.iastate.edu/grantrfp.htm>

Questions may be directed to Dr. Gaylan Scofield ([ggs@iastate.edu](mailto:ggs@iastate.edu)) or 294-0045.

## Technology Upgrades

Recent technology purchases and upgrades have enhanced the quality of current distance education courses. Wiring upgrades in both teaching/capture classrooms in the Brenton Center improved the video and audio capture quality for distance education courses. This was the final step that was needed to complete the Accordent Capture Station project from Spring semester. This technology allows the Brenton Center staff to synchronize and publish video, audio, and slides for web or CD-ROM delivery in multiple formats.

Remote capture technology was added this Summer to allow Brenton Center staff to capture faculty teaching in lecture halls across campus. This technology allows the posting of lectures for on-line learning just hours after it was taught face-to-face. Distance education students as well as on-campus students have access to the educational materials in a timely manner.

These are examples of how CALS student delivery fees are being used to improve the quality and availability of distance courses.

# Grant Services

Project evaluation, communication, and reporting requirements are integral to all projects. Technology can be effectively used to help PIs achieve requirements of funding agencies and enhance project success.

The Brenton Center can assist in proposal preparation by incorporating technology into the project and providing estimates for technological components. Specifically, the Brenton Center can assist PIs in conducting project activities and preparing deliverables by offering the following services:

- Using video to document benchmarks and activities for use in project evaluation and communications
- Live and archived streaming of video

- IP video conferencing to enhance collaboration and communications among project partners
- Developing Web pages, CD-ROM, DVD components
- Provide training on using technology
- Duplication of CD's and DVD's
- On-site video capture (TV quality)
- Pod casting (audio and video)

The Brenton Center's state-of-the-art educational facilities can serve as your on-campus location for conferences, or as the origination site for your distance education offerings. To learn more about these services call 4-1862.

***“High quality distance education programs fit real-time needs of geographically isolated and non-traditional students.”***

## Benefits of Video Conferencing

Video conferencing is not new, but with the increased costs associated with travel, it is taking on a new meaning. Used effectively, video conferencing can increase productivity. Along with increased productivity, an additional plus is savings due to reduced travel. Video conferencing reduces the “downtime” associated with traveling.

Several things need to be considered when planning a video conference.

- How many people will participate at each site?

- Is it important to share PC-based information (PowerPoint)
- Do you need to call multiple sites at one time?

The Brenton Center has the capacity to connect to multiple sites. Frequent uses of our video conferencing system includes meetings, oral exams, guest speakers, global classes, etc. The Brenton Center also has the ability to do audio conferencing.

## Distance Education Benefits

Distance Education students report numerous benefits of distance learning. The number one benefit is flexibility and time. Additional benefits are:

- Increased access to learning
- Employer covers some or all of cost
- Maintain full or part time job
- Wider choice of learning institutions
- Promotes life long learning
- Interaction with students from different

backgrounds

- Access to experts and current information
- Increased compensation and promotion potential
- Allows students to maintain personal, cultural, and social lifestyle
- Increased communication with instructors
- Allows students to control learning environment

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[www.brenton.iastate.edu](http://www.brenton.iastate.edu)  
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