

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PRESENTS LIVE FROM THE BLM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, THE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTANCE LEARNING CONSORTIUM AN OVERVIEW OF WEB-BASED COURSES, CERTIFICATE, AND DEGREE PROGRAMS. AND NOW THE HOST OF YOUR PROGRAM, DON CHARPIO.

HELLO AND WELL WELCOME TO OUR OVERVIEW OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTANCE LEARNING CONSORTIUM. THIS WILL PROVIDE YOU A GUIDE OF ACCESSING A NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES' ONLINE SEMINARS, COURSES, CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES IN THE DISCIPLINES ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE VALUABLE TO EMPLOYEES NEEDING ADDITIONAL, FORMAL HIGHER EDUCATION CREDENTIALS TO MAINTAIN OR ADVANCE THEIR CAREER, ALSO, EMPLOYEES INTERESTED IN KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST IN RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN THE VARIOUS AREAS RELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, AND EMPLOYEES NEEDING TO ADVANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMPETENCY WITHIN THEIR CURRENT JOB. TODAY'S PROGRAM WILL PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES WHO MAKE UP THE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTANCE LEARNING CONSORTIUM, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH UNIVERSITY'S ONLINE PROGRAM EMPHASIS AREAS, AND HOW FEDERAL EMPLOYEES CAN ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AS PART OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS. WITH ME TODAY FROM VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY TO TALK ABOUT NRDLIC IS KIERAN LINDSEY WHO IS THE CONSORTIUM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. WELCOME, KIERAN.

THANKS, DON. I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE OUR AUDIENCE TO THE NRDLIC.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. AND FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, BILL WOODLAND IS HERE TO GIVE US SOME BACKGROUND ON THE CONSORTIUM AND EXPLAIN HOW NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR PERSONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT. HELLO, BILL.

THANK YOU, DON. I'M EXCITED TO BE HERE WITH THESE TEN UNIVERSITY PARTNERS. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE VIEWERS OUT THERE. WE KNOW YOU'RE DOING A DIFFICULT JOB IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND WE HOPE TO PROVIDE YOU TOOLS AND WAYS TO DO THAT JOB BETTER. ALSO, IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH YOUR SUPERVISORS HOW WE MIGHT PROVIDE GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO PAY FOR THIS EDUCATION AND OFFICIAL TIME.

THANK YOU, THAT'S A GOOD POINT. AND JUDY KURTZMAN FROM UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY IS HERE, AND SHE IS GOING TO GIVE US SOME DETAILS ON THEIR COURSE OFFERINGS THROUGH NRDLC. HELLO, JUDY.

THANKS DON, A PLEASURE TO BE HERE I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY.

FROM OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY URSULA BECHERT, DIRECTOR OF OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, IS HERE TO DISCUSS THEIR OFFERINGS THROUGH NRDLC. URSULA, WE'RE GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

THANKS, DON, I LOOK FORWARD TO PRESENTING THE COURSES AND OFFERINGS AS WELL AS SOME NEW ONES WE ARE CREATING.

AND MIKE WHITEMAN, ASSOCIATE DEAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO'S COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IS WITH US TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR ON-LINE COURSE OFFERINGS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF WILDLAND FIRE ECOLOGY. HI, MIKE.

THANKS, VERY MUCH, DON, I LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO BUT THE PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

THANK YOU.

WE ALSO HAVE PROFESSOR TIM BURCHAM, WHO WILL DISCUSS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-MARTIN'S COURSES AND HOW THEY CAN BE OF USE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS WHO WANT TO IMPROVE THEIR MANAGEMENT SKILLS. GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE, TIM.

THANK YOU, DON, IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE AND I WANTED TO EXTEND A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE HERE TODAY, AND THANK THE STAFF AT THE TRAINING CENTER, THEY'VE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB HOSTING

US AND WE WANT TO SEND YOU THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING WITH YOU WHAT WE'RE DOING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN.

THEY DO A GREAT JOB. AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR THERESA COBLE FROM STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY IS HERE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERPRETATION. GREETINGS, THERESA.

THANK YOU, DON, WE HAVE SOME EXCITING OFFERS IN CAREER AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING.

THANK YOU, AND FROM MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY IS DEVELOPING A MASTERS OF SCIENCE AND FORESTRY, AND WITH US TO TALK ABOUT THAT IS JODI ROBERTS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR ACADEMIC OUTREACH AND CONTINUING EDUCATION. WELCOME, JODI.

THANK YOU, DON, WE LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING ABOUT THE SERVICES WE OFFER AT MISSISSIPPI STATE AND THE 401 SERVICES WE OFFER THE BLM.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. IN ADDITION TO OUR STUDIO PANEL, LATER IN OUR PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME OF NRDLC'S OTHER UNIVERSITY MEMBERS WILL BE JOINING US ON THE PHONE. BEFORE WE GET STARTED, I'D LIKE TO MENTION THAT AFTER OUR PRESENTATIONS ON NRDLC'S COURSE AND DEGREE OFFERINGS WE WILL BE TAKING YOUR QUESTIONS, SO AS WE GO ALONG, IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT FOR ANY OF US, PLEASE JUST SEND US AN E-MAIL AT [NTCTELECAST@BLM.GOV](mailto:NTCTELECAST@BLM.GOV) OR YOU CAN SEND US A FAX AT 602-906-5701. AND DURING OUR QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SEGMENT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CALL AND TALK TO US AT 1-877-862-5346. WE'D ALSO LIKE TO MENTION RIGHT UP FRONT THAT INFORMATION ON ALL OF THE COURSE, CERTIFICATE, AND DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE NRDLC PARTNERS ARE PROVIDED IN DETAIL ON THEIR WEBSITE AT THIS ADDRESS.

OKAY, NOW THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE OUT OF THE WAY, LET'S START WITH AN OVERVIEW OF NRDLC AND SOME OF THE DETAILS ON COURSE REGISTRATION AND THE DEGREE PROGRAMS. AND A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND ON WHAT DISTANCE LEARNING IS TODAY IN ACADEMIA. AND WE HAVE KIERAN LINDSEY HERE TO TALK TO US ABOUT THAT.

THANK YOU, DON. WE OFFER 250 WEB-BASED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES. 16 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES, AND EIGHT PROFESSIONAL DEGREES COVERING A VARIETY NATURAL

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DISCIPLINES. A LITTLE LATER IN THE PROGRAM I'LL DISCUSS SOME OF THE BENEFICIAL FEATURES OF DISTANCE LEARNING, BUT FOR NOW I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE CONSORTIUM AND WHAT IT HAS TO OFFER NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS BY TELLING YOU A LITTLE ABOUT MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS A DISTANCE STUDENT. BACK IN 2001, I WAS LOOKING TO GET A MASTERS DEGREE IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE NEAREST UNIVERSITY DIDN'T HAVE A NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM. MY HUSBAND AND I HAD ALREADY DONE THE LONG-DISTANCE MARRIAGE -- MORE THAN ONCE -- AND I WAS NOT WILLING TO LEAVE AGAIN FOR 18-24 MONTHS TO GET MY DEGREE. BESIDES, I WAS SECRETLY THINKING BEYOND THE MASTERS DEGREE TO A PH.D, AND BEING AWAY FOR THREE TO FOUR YEARS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. ABOUT THIS TIME A COLLEAGUE OF MINE MENTIONED DISTANCE LEARNING, AND THE MORE I LOOKED INTO IT, THE MORE IT SEEMED TAILOR-MADE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, A SELF-MOTIVATED LEARNER WHO HAD A JOB AND A FAMILY BUT ALSO A GOOD DEAL OF AMBITION. AT THE TIME MY HOME UNIVERSITY DIDN'T OFFER MANY DISTANCE COURSES AND FINDING ONLINE COURSES WAS A CHALLENGE. ONE OF THE REASONS I'M SO PROUD OF THE NRDLC IS THAT OUR WEBSITE ALLOWS YOU TO SEARCH ALL THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES OFFERED BY TEN UNIVERSITIES ALL ON ONE WEBSITE. TALK ABOUT A TIME SAVER! I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE HAD THAT! AND WHILE MANY OF US WILL TALK ABOUT DEGREES TODAY, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU CAN TAKE INDIVIDUAL CLASSES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS WELL. BECAUSE THE CONSORTIUM IS COMPOSED OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, TUITION AND FEES ARE SET BY STATE LEGISLATURES. AS A RESULT, WE DO NOT HAVE A SINGLE PER-CREDIT-HOUR COST FOR ALL NRDLC COURSES, AND WE DO NOT HAVE A SINGLE APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS; HOWEVER, I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR MEMBERS ARE WELL-VERSED IN THE PROCESS FOR THEIR OWN INSTITUTION, AND THEY ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP STUDENTS NAVIGATE THROUGH THE PROCESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RETURNING TO SCHOOL CAN BE INTIMIDATING, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE CLASSROOM IS NOW A COMPUTER, AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MINUTE OR TWO TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE BASICS OF DISTANCE LEARNING SO YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND FROM THE VISUAL -- VIRTUAL CLASSROOM. COMPARING DISTANCE LEARNING TO TRADITIONAL COURSES IS LIKE COMPARING APPLES AND... PEARS. THEY AREN'T EXACTLY THE SAME BUT THEY ARE MORE CLOSELY RELATED THAN APPLES AND ORANGES. EACH HAVE THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, AND THERE WILL BE STUDENTS WHO PREFER ONE OVER THE OTHER. BUT THE QUALITY OF EACH IS DEPENDENT NOT ON THE DELIVERY ENVIRONMENT AS MUCH AS ON THE COURSE DESIGN AND THE INSTRUCTOR. FLEXIBILITY. THAT'S THE KEY ATTRIBUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING. I ASSUME EVERYONE IS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM APPROACH BECAUSE IT'S ENVIRONMENT IN THE U.S. FOR A LONG TIME. YOU MAY BE NEW TO DL, THOUGH, SO I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS APPROACH TO COURSE DELIVERY. AS I MENTIONED, FLEXIBILITY IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST ATTRACTION FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS WHO NEED TO JUGGLE JOB AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SCHOOL. STUDENTS DO NOT NEED TO LEAVE THEIR JOB AND HOME TO CONTINUE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN MANY CASES, STUDENTS CAN ACCESS LECTURES AT A TIME THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR THEIR SCHEDULE, RATHER THAN MEETING AT A SPECIFIC DAY AND TIME. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE COURSES AND DEGREES BASED ON CAREER NEEDS AND INTERESTS RATHER THAN PROXIMITY TO A SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. YOU CAN MIX AND MATCH CLASSES WITH HELP FROM YOUR ADVISER AND REALLY TAILOR YOUR EDUCATION TO MEET YOUR NEEDS. YOU CAN EVEN EXPAND YOUR

EXPERTISE BEYOND YOUR OWN REGION TO INCLUDE ISSUES THAT ARE RELEVANT COAST TO COAST. NOW, DISTANCE LEARNING IS NOT THE SAME AS THE OLD CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL MODEL IN WHICH STUDENTS TOILED AWAY IN ISOLATION, OFTEN WITH LITTLE OR NO CONNECTION TO A LIVING, BREATHING INSTRUCTOR. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT MADE AND RETURNED THROUGH THE MAIL, UNLESS YOU COUNT EMAIL. CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES OFFER A VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION METHODS, ALLOWING INSTRUCTORS TO WORK WITH STUDENTS INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS. COURSES CAN EVEN BE DESIGNED TO FOSTER COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING BETWEEN STUDENTS. DISTANCE COURSES ARE GENERALLY OFFERED IN TWO BASIC FORMATS -- SYNCHRONOUS COURSES REQUIRE STUDENTS TO LOG IN AT A SPECIFIC TIME FOR A LIVE BROADCAST, AND OFTEN THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LIVE PARTICIPATION. NOW USUALLY AN ARCHIVED RECORDING IS MADE AVAILABLE IN CASE A STUDENT EXPERIENCES TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES DURING CLASS. ASYNCHRONOUS COURSES ALLOW STUDENTS TO ACCESS LECTURES AND OTHER COURSE ACTIVITIES AT A TIME THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR THEM. THIS IS NOT THE SAME AS INDEPENDENT OR SELF-PACED STUDY, ASYNCHRONOUS COURSES GENERALLY INCLUDE SPECIFIC DEADLINES FOR HOMEWORK, EXAMS, PARTICIPATION AND INTERACTION WITH FELLOW STUDENTS. EACH OF OUR MEMBERS ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THEIR COURSES AND THEIR PROGRAMS, AND YOU'LL FIND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL OUR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS ON THE CONSORTIUM WEBSITE. DON?

THANK YOU, IT SOUNDS LIKE DISTANCE LEARNING IS VERY DIVERSE TODAY.

IT IS.

BILL, TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE BENEFITS THE CONSORTIUM OFFERS TO FEDERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE 401 NATURAL RESOURCE SERIES AND HOW EMPLOYEES QUALIFY?

THESE COURSES ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE FEDERAL JOB OR THE PUBLIC LAND MANAGER JOB, SO THEY ARE ALIGNED IN THAT MANNER SO THAT THE COURSES ARE PROVIDING AN ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, NEW TOOLS AND APPLICATIONS AND WAYS TO INTEGRATE SOME OF THE RESOURCES. IT'S VERY, VERY WELL PROVIDED IN GIVING THIS INFORMATION JUST IN TIME DELIVERY.

THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE WITH VERY BUSY SCHEDULES WHO NEED THE INFORMATION WHEN THEY NEED IT. BILL, I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST AUDIENCES WE HAVE OUT THERE TODAY LISTENING IN ARE THOSE INTERESTED IN THE FIRE SERIES THROUGH THE 401 SERIES SO-CALLED.

AND I KNOW THERE ARE ISSUES AND REGULATIONS THAT WILL QUALIFY ONE TO PROGRESS IN THEIR SERIES. CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT?

FIRST I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE TERM PROFESSIONAL. PROFESSIONAL IN THIS CASE IS AN O.P.M. TERM AND IT'S ALIGNED WITH AN ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, A DEGREE OR COURSES. ALL OF US FEEL WE DO A PROFESSIONAL JOB IN OUR EVERYDAY WORK AND I DON'T WANT TO OVERSHADOW THE DEDICATION OF OUR TECHNICAL WORKFORCE, THE PLANNERS AND THE FOREST TECHNICIANS, THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR PUBLIC SERVICE BUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BIOLOGICAL SERIES 401, THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO ACHIEVE THAT 401 SERIES. YOU HAVE THE A, THE COMMON ONE, IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND THEN CHEM CHEMISTRY. A HOW OLD OVER FROM WHEN THEY WERE ALL SCIENCES. AND THE B OPTION IS WHAT WE WANT TO FOCUS ON TODAY. INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY OR MAY NOT WANT A DEGREE BUT CAN USE A COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE TO ACHIEVE IN A MAJOR AREA TO ACHIEVE QUALIFICATION STANDARDS. I WANT TO TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT CLASSIFYING. THIS IS IN FACT THE PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORK. THIS IS THE POSITION, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL. A PROFESSIONAL POSITION SUCH AS 401 IS UNIQUELY ACQUIRED THROUGH EXTENSIVE EDUCATION AS A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE, MEANING ONE THAT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE COURSE WORK IS EQUIVALENT TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A BACHELORS DEGREE OR HIGHER AND THE POSITION USES THE SCHOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING TO EXPLORE, EXTEND, AND ADDITIONAL DISCOVERIES AND INTERPRETATION. FOR THE QUALIFICATION SIDE, THIS IS ONE THAT BOTH FOLKS IN FIRE MANAGEMENT AND THE NEWLY EMERGING RECREATION MANAGER ARE MOST INTERESTED IN. IT REQUIRES COMPLETION UNDER THE A. OPTION OF AN ACCREDITED BACHELORS. AND THE B OPTION IS THE 24 SEMESTER CREDITS REQUIRED FOR A MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY. I WANT TO PAUSE AND MAKE SURE WHEN WE TALK ABOUT 24 SEMESTER CREDITS AND NOT QUARTER CREDITS, IT IS SEMESTER CREDITS, GENERALLY RECORDED ON A TRANSCRIPT. IN A MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY. OBVIOUSLY IN NATURAL RESOURCES WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FORESTRY, WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND ECOLOGY. THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE COURSES ARE ONE IN WHICH THEY WOULD SERVE AS A PREREQUISITE FOR ADVANCE SUBJECT MATTER AREA FOR THE DEGREE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE IN LINE FOR THE DEGREE AND ALTHOUGH YOU ARE NOT OBTAINING THE DEGREE, THE COURSES TO BE COUNTED MUST IN FACT BY COUNTED BY THAT UNIVERSITY TOWARD A DEGREE PROGRAM. DON?

THANK YOU, BILL, FOR THAT OVERVIEW. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'D LIKE TO MENTION SOME OF THE NRDLIC EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS THAT MAY BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO OUR BLM VIEWERS. ONE OF THOSE IS THE GIS AND CADASTRAL SURVEY, PENN STATE. YOU WILL SEE A VIDEO CLIP ABOUT THE CAMPUS LATER ON IN THIS PROGRAM. FORESTRY AS YOU HEARD IS ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS YOU'LL WE HEARING ABOUT THAT, AND OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN SERVING THE FOREST SERVICE WELL IN THE UPPER NORTHWEST. AND INTERPRETATION IS ONE THAT THE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HAS BEEN WORKING WITH US ON AND VIRGINIA TECH WHO YOU WILL HEAR FROM ON THE PHONE TODAY IS WORKING ON NATIONAL POLICY ISSUES AND WE KNOW THERE ARE ISSUES WITH THAT TODAY. ALL OF THE PEOPLE OUT THERE IN THE BLM AREAS ARE WELCOME TODAY AND YOU CAN CONTACT THE

UNIVERSITY ON OUR INDIVIDUAL POINTS OF INTEREST AND THE POINT THAT YOU CAN LIVE ON THE WEST COAST AND TAKE COURSES ON THE EAST COAST IS VERY RELEVANT TODAY. NOW THAT WE'VE PROVIDED YOU WITH A BROAD-BRUSH OVERVIEW OF THE MANY WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NRDLC PARTNERSHIP, WE ARE GOING TO HEAR FROM THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES FOR MORE DETAIL. FIRST LET'S GO TO URSULA BECHERT FROM OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY WHO HAS PREPARED THIS BACKGROUND PIECE FOR US. WE'RE GOING TO ROLL THAT TAPE NOW EBB.

WELCOME TO OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, I'M URSULA, WE ARE A LAND, SEA, SUN AND LAND GRANT INSTITUTION AND ONE OF THE TOP UNIVERSITIES IN THE NORTHWEST, RENOWNED FOR EXPERTISE IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY. OSU DELIVERS QUALITY ON-LINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO YOU IN THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT. OSU EXTENDED CAMPUS OFFERS OVER 400 ON-LINE CLASSES IN MORE THAN 60 SUBJECTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. A LARGE NUMBER OF AGENCY PROFESSIONALS HAVE GRADUATED WITH ONE OF OUR ON-LINE DEGREES OR HAVE SIMPLY TAKEN COURSES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

>> I'VE BEEN A 12-YEAR NONPERMANENT NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIANS WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND THIS IS ALLOWING ME TO QUALIFY FOR A PERMANENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION WITH THE AGENCY, THAT IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP UP FOR ME AND DISTANCE LEARNING HAS HELPED ME MAINTAIN A FAMILY LIVE WHEN I ATTAIN A DEGREE.

THAT IS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME, I'M 42, AND LIVE LIFE -- LIFE IS IN PROGRESS.

>> WE OFFER A VARIETY OF DEGREES THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU.

OSU ALSO OFFERS G.S.401 APPROVED ON-LINE COURSES FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE FOREST SERVICE AND BLM IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

OSU IS DEVELOPING SEVERAL NEW PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.

BECAUSE OSU IS ON THE QUARTER SYSTEM, YOU HAVE FOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO START TAKING CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

UNLIKE LONGER SEMESTER TERMS, OSU OFFERS COURSES IN A CONDENSED 11-WEEK PERIOD.

ADDITIONALLY, STUDENTS PAY THE SAME RATE FOR ON-LINE CLASSES WHETHER THEY ARE FROM OREGON OR OUT OF STATE.

ALL ON-LINE STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM TOP-NOTCH SERVICES INCLUDING A TOLL-FREE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, ON-LINE TUTORING AND TECHNICAL HELP.

>> D. CHARPIO: URSULA` IT LOOKS LIKE -- URSULA IT LOOKS LIKE OSU HAS A VARIETY OF COURSES, I'M IMPRESSED.

>> U. BECHERT: THANK YOU, AND YOU CAN CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CLASSES.

>> DON CHARPIO: AND NOW LET'S GO TO TIM BURCHAM FROM THE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE-MARTIN.

TIM, CAN YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS ON YOUR COURSE OFFERINGS?

>> T. BURCHAM: THANK YOU, DON, BACK IN 2007 WE ACTUALLY INCREASED THE OFFERINGS AND CHANGED THE DEGREE NAME AND EMPHASIS TO INCLUDE NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE SYSTEM, YOU WILL SEE OUR CAMPUS IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF TENNESSEE IN THE RURAL FARMING COMMUNITY, AND OUR ENROLLMENT IS AROUND 7,000 STUDENTS AND WE HAVE AN EXPANDING GRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN.

WE ARE REALLY EXPANDING OUR ON-LINE GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS THERE.

ONE OF THE NICE THINGS ABOUT OUR PROGRAM IS WE OFFER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT OF THAT THROUGH U.T. ON LINE AND THAT MEANS THAT THE IN AND OUT OF STATE TUITION IS VERY SIMILAR, ONLY A \$32 PER SEMESTER OUR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IN AND OUT OF STATE TUITION.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE NSRA CURRICULUM, IT'S 32 AND THEY ARE DONE ASYNCHRONOUSLY, MEANING THAT THE STUDENTS CAN COME IN AFTER HAVING HAD AN EVENING MEAL AND PUT THE KIDS TO BED THEY CAN GO THROUGH AND LISTEN TO THE LECTURES.

AND IT'S DONE THROUGH THE CALENDAR, AND THEY RECOGNIZE WITH OUR STUDENTS, TAKE MIDTERMS AND FINALS ACCORDING TO THE U.T. MARTIN CALENDAR BUT IT DOES PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY AND THAT IS WHY WE OFFER IT IN THE ASYNCHRONOUS MODE.

WE OFFER THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY WITH REGARD TO AUDIO VIDEO CONTENT AND WE ARE VERY COMFORTABLE WITH THE STUDENTS TAKING OUR COURSES.

STUDENTS CAN SELECT FROM THREE CONCENTRATION OPTIONS, SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE, OUR ORIGINAL FORMAT, AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP AND THEN NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER BOTH THESIS AND NON-THESIS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR DEGREE PROGRAM.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE DEGREE PROGRAM THERE ARE 12 HOURS THAT YOU SELECT IN YOUR CONS CONCENTRATION AREA AND THIS IS WHERE YOU CHOOSE COURSES IN NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT FOR EXAMPLE, AND CHOOSE COURSES FROM U.T. MARTIN OR FROM THE CONSORTIUM.

WE HAVE AN AGRICULTURE BUSINESS COMPONENT OF THIS DEGREE AND SO IF YOU WERE INTERESTED IN HAVING MORE MANAGEMENT SKILLS WE THINK THIS DEGREE WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOU.

THE REMAINDER OF THE PROGRAM IS IN RESEARCH HOURS, STATISTICS AND MATH AND THEN PROGRAMS THAT BROADEN YOU WITH REGARD TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE ARE OFFERING QUITE A FEW COURSES THAT HAVE NATURAL RESOURCES CONTENT.

SOME OF THESE ARE IN THING ARY -- AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AREA, AND WE'VE ADDED NEW COURSES IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES AREA THAT ARE IN CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND MANAGEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE RESOURCES THAT WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER AS WELL.

WE ALSO HAVE A WET LANDS SCIENCE COURSE THAT STUDENTS CAN TAKE, A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TODAY.

ONE OF THE THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH IS ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM THAT ARE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL CAN BE AN INTIMIDATING PROCESS.

WE ARE HERE TO TALK UH-UH AND -- TALK AND WALK YOU THROUGH THE REGISTRATION PROCESS, AND YOU WILL GET PERSONALIZED ADVISING NO MATTER THE INSTITUTION THAT YOU CHOOSE, ONE OF THE GREAT STRENGTHS OF THE NRDL.

THANK YOU AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING THE VIEWERS TODAY.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU FOR THAT PRESENTATION.

AND VIEWERS YOU NEED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAILS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HAS A NUMBER OF WEB-BASED COURSES AVAILABLE IN THE AREAS OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM, GIS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

WITH US ON THE PHONE NOW FROM NORTH CAROLINA IS MIKE KOCUREK, PROFESSOR OF WOOD AND PAPER SCIENCE, WHO IS GOING TO TELL US MORE ABOUT THEIR OFFERINGS.

HELLO, MIKE.

ARE YOU OUT THERE.

>> M. KOCUREK: HE -- YES, AND GOOD MORNING TO YOUR LISTENERS.

>> WE ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU AN OVER VIEW OF THE PROGRAMS THAT ARE COMING SOON.

THE TITLE SLIDE INDICATES THAT I'M GOING TO COVER BOTH THE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE AND A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSES.

THERE ARE THREE NEW COMING-SOON DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER DEGREE PROGRAMS.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS MASTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

THE SECOND IS A GIS MASTERS TO ADD TO THE CURRENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, AND THE THIRD IS THE MASTERS OF PARKS, RECREATION, TOURISM AND SPORTS MANAGEMENT.

THESE ARE OUR NEWLY DEVELOPING PROGRAMS AND I INCLUDED JUST FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION SOME COURSES AND OUR DEGREE ON MASTERS OF WOOD AND PAPER SCIENCE.

THE NEXT VISUAL GOING INTO MORE DETAIL ON THE MASTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

YOU CAN SEE IT'S ANTICIPATED TO BE UP AND RUNNING IN FALL 2009.

AND JUST TO HIGHLIGHT ITS OBJECTIVE, IT'S TWO PROVIDE GRADUATES WITH THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE THE SOURCES, FATE AND EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT IN ORDER TO DEVELOP, SUPPORT REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIAL ACTION DECISIONS.

AN EXAMPLE OF SOME OF THE COURSES IN THE PROGRAM INCLUDE RISK ASSESSMENT, EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND ANALYSIS, LAW AND POLICY.

THE SECOND PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT IS THE MASTERS OF GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE AND SEC TECHNOLOGY AND IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP PROFESSIONALS THAT LEAD IN THE DESIGN AND DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED SPATIAL ANALYTICS AND TECHNOLOGIES.

COURSES INCLUDE MODELS AND ANALYSIS, PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS, DATABASE STRUCTURE AND WEB SERVICES.

THE THIRD PROGRAM THAT IS PLANNED TO BE ON LINE IN THE FALL IS MASTERS OF PARKS, RECREATION, TOURISM AND SPORTS MANAGEMENT.

OUR FACULTY IN THAT DEPARTMENT NEED BUSINESS CARDS THAT A LITTLE LARGER THAN THE OTHERS -- (LAUGHTER).

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PREP PREPARE GRADUATES FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE VARIED FIELDS.

AND BESIDE THE COURSES UNDER DEVELOPMENT WOULD INCLUDE DATA MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION IN PRT AND SPORTS MANAGEMENT.

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND LEADERSHIP, RISK MANAGEMENT, ADVANCED FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC MARKETING MANAGEMENT.

AND SO AS YOU CAN SEE, THESE ARE NEW PROGRAMS AND I'M THINKING THIS TYPE OF BROADCAST APPROACH IS EXCELLENT AND I HOPE THAT WE HAVE MORE.

DURING THE NEXT ONE, WE SHOULD HAVE MORE DETAILS ON THE COURSES AND ON THE PROGRAMS.

CERTAINLY IN THE INTERIM, PLEASE CONTACT THE INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE LISTED ON THE PARTICULAR SLIDES THAT YOU'RE VIEWING AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE KIND OF INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS IF THEY ARE OF INTEREST.

THE LAST PROGRAM IS JUST SOME SAMPLE COURSES FROM OUR WOOD AND PAPER SCIENCE MASTERS DEGREE.

I DO HAVE TO PROMOTE THE EXCELLENCE OF PULP AND PAPER TECHNOLOGY WHEN I TEACH, BUT I THINK ANYONE WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS STRATEGIC BUSINESS PROCESS ON PULP AND PAPER TAUGHT BY RICHARD PHILIPS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF A MAJOR PULP AND PAPER COMPANY, AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS INFORMATION.

>> D. CHARPIO: MIKE, THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US AND WE'LL HEAR FROM YOU LATER AS QUESTIONS COME OUR WAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> D. CHARPIO: NEXT LET'S HEAR FROM

THERESA COBLE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FOREST RECREATION AND INTERPRETATION WITH STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY ON THEIR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERPRETATION.

>> T. COBLE: HI, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ON LINE ONE MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM AND MIKE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR BRINGING THREE PROGRAMS ON LINE, THAT IS A LOT OF WORK.

!

AND FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ON THIS SLIDE YOU WILL SEE VICKY AN INTERPRETER SUPERVISOR AND DAVID SMITH, THE SOUTH RIM DISTRICT INTERPRETER AT GRAND CANYON AND ROCHELLE A SEASONAL INTERPRETER AT GLACIER NATION PARK.

THIS IS A TOOL THAT INTEGRATES IMAGES, NARRATIVE, TEXT, AND VIDEO AND WEB-BASED COMMUNICATION TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE AUDIENCES.

THIS IS A TOOL THAT HELPS TO TRANSFORM VISITORS FROM BYSTANDERS TO CONSTITUENTS, PARTNERS AND STEWARDS.

OUR ON-LINE CLASSES ACTUALLY WEAVE TOGETHER A NETWORK OF PROFESSIONALS FROM ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.

WE HAVE STUDENTS FROM ALASKA TO THE EVERGLADES FROM FLORIDA AND FROM KONA, HAWAII TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED CITIES OF THE EAST.

LIKE YOU, MANY PROFESSIONALS SEEK TO HONE THEIR SKILLS OR GAIN NEW SKILLS AND YOU HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS WITH THE NRDLC PROGRAM.

WE TEACH CLASSES IN ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, CURRICULUM BASED PROGRAMS, MEDIA, PLANNING, LEADERSHIP, HUMAN DIMENSIONS, RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS.

DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE FROM THESIS AND NON-THESIS OPTIONS.

AMY FROM MINNESOTA IS FOR HER THESIS RESEARCH PROJECT SHE EXAMINED 28 NATURE CENTERS TO ASSESS THE AMOUNT, TYPE AND QUALITY OF ADULT PROGRAMMING THAT FOCUSED ON CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES.

IN A SENSE, HER THESIS HAS A LITMUS TEST FOR A GREEN STATE AND THERE IS A NEED FOR RAMPING UP TO ENVIRONMENTAL ED, AND WE HAVE JULIE WHO IS AN EDUCATION SPECIALIST AD BAD LANDS NATIONAL PARK AND SHE WORKED TO DEVELOP A DISTANCE EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR RULE SCHOOLS AROUND HER PARK THAT RELATED TO THE FOX REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS THAT THEY ARE ENGAGED IN.

THIS CAN BE A COMPETITIVE FIELD, AND THROUGH OUR CAREER PROGRAM, AGENCIES CAN HIRE PEOPLE INTO POSITIONS FOR WHICH THEY MIGHT NOT QUALIFY, THROUGH THE FEDERAL ROUTE WHERE YOU GET POINT TOTALS BASED ON VETERAN STATUS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

BRENT STARTED WORKING IN COLORADO AND IT WAS HIS THIRD SKEP HIRE, AND HE HAS MOVED FROM PINNACLES TO DINOSAURS, LEVERAGING HIS SKILLS FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ANY OF ANOTHER MAZING -- ANY OF THE AMAZING THINGS OUR STUDENTS ARE DOING, CONTACT US, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE.

>> D. CHARPIO: THERESA, THANKS FOR SHARING THAT INSIGHT.

IT WAS NICE TO SEE EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR COURSES AND I HOPE TO BE FOREST, FISHERIES AND BLM FOLKS NEXT TIME WE DO THIS PROGRAM.

NEXT WE HAVE JIM BURCHFIELD ON THE PHONE WITH US.

JIM IS THE INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA.

JIM, I UNDERSTAND YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT, POLICY, AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

JIM?

>> J. BURCHFIELD: (NO RESPONSE.

>> D. CHARPIO: WE MAY HAVE OUR FIRST TECHNICAL GLITCH.

WELL, HE WAS HERE EARLIER TODAY AND THEY OFFER AN EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT AND POLICY AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET HIM ON THE PHONE, IF NOT, WE'LL GIVE YOU CONTACT INFORMATION.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY IS OFFERING UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

AND JODI ROBERTS IS HERE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT HER PROGRAMS.

>> J. ROBERTS: HI THERE.

MISSISSIPPI STATE IS VERY EXCITED TO PROVIDE YOUR AGENCIES WITH A VARIETY OF COURSES THEY CAN TAKE AS WELL AS CERTIFICATES AND UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSE WORK.

WE OFFER 401 COURSES IN FIRE, FOREST RECREATION, GIS, WEATHER, WATER RESOURCES JUST TO NAME A FEW, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ENROLLED IN AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT MISSISSIPPI STATE HAS TO OFFER.

OUR GIS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IS OFFERED AT GOTH -- BOTH THE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL, A 15--HOUR CREDIT PROGRAM THAT YOU CAN TAKE AT YOUR LEISURE.

ALL OF THE PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED ON-LINE AND THEY ARE ASYNCHRONOUS.

CURRENTLY AS ALLUDED TO EARLIER OUR STATE LEGISLATURE SETS OUR TUITION BUT OUR UNDERGRADUATE IS \$214.17 PER CREDIT HOUR, AND OUR GRADUATE IS \$286.25 PER CREDIT HOUR.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE DEVELOPING RIGHT NOW OUR MASTERS IN FORESTRY PROGRAM.

THIS WILL BE A 30-CREDIT NON-THESIS PROGRAM THAT IF YOU REALLY WOULD LIKE TO DO A THESIS, WE CAN MAKE THAT AVAILABLE TO YOU.

OUR PROPOSED START DATE IS JANUARY 2010.

THIS WILL BE A BUSINESS-TYPE OPTION, BUT THE EMPHASIS RIGHT NOW IS ON ECONOMICS.

WE HAVE A STRONG ECONOMICS BACKGROUND IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES AREA.

THE COURSES ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED AND THEY'RE GOING THROUGH THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PHASE TO ENSURE THERE IS ACADEMIC RIGGER.

THESE ARE A PROPOSED LISTING OF THE COURSES OFFERS.

STYLES THERE -- SOMETIMES THERE ARE DISTANCE FEES ATTACHED.

MISSISSIPPI DOES NOT CHARGE OUT-OF-STATE TELEVISION, AND WE HAVE A \$35 APPLICATION FEE WHICH IS NONREFUNDABLE.

THE 30-CREDIT HOURS, 15 OF THOSE ARE AVAILABLE AT MISSISSIPPI STATE WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE CREDITS CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM.

AND WE ALSO HAVE AN MBA PROGRAM SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING AN MBA WITH A FORESTRY EMPHASIS.

THE PROGRAM OF STUDY WILL BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THEIR GRADUATE COMMITTEES.

ANY EXTERNAL COURSES THAT A STUDENT MIGHT BE WANTING TO TAKE HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THEIR TAKING THE CLASS.

IF YOU GO TO OUR WEBSITE RIGHT NOW, YOU WILL NOT FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED.

BUT YOU CAN CONTACT ME AND I WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE.

I CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS -- ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL, WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO DO.

DON?

>> D. CHARPIO: SEEMS LIKE MISSISSIPPI STATE IS ON THE MOVE.

>> WE ARE.

>> D. CHARPIO: AND NOW WE HAVE JIM BURCHFIELD WITH US.

>> J. BURCHFIELD: THANK YOU, I COULD HEAR YOU ON THE PHONE BUT YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME, AND SO I'M GLAD WE ARE BACK TOGETHER.

I HAVE CERTAINLY ENJOYED LEARN BACKGROUND ALL OF THE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AND I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE AND HOW THE CONSORTIUM HAS TAKEN OFF, I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT OUR PROGRAM IN WILDERNESS.

HERE WE HAVE IN MONTANA A FOUR-COURSE PROGRAM IN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT AND ITS LONG-TERM PROTECTION.

THE FOUR COURSES ARE NOT NECESSARILY NEED TO BE TAKEN IN SEQUENCE, THEY ARE ALL ON-LINE BUT WE DO REQUEST THAT THE FINAL COURSE, IS TAKEN AFTER THE OTHER THREE ARE TAKEN TO COMPLETE THE CERTIFICATE.

THE OTHER THREE COURSES WHICH CAN BE TAKEN AT ANY TIME ARE THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS PHILOSOPHIES AND POLICIES, FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN WILDERNESS AND WHY IT CAME ABOUT, AND MANAGING WILDERNESS SO THAT MANAGERS UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO TO PROTECT THE HIGH VALUES THAT THE WILDERNESS PROVIDES AND THIRD, MANAGER RECREATION RESOURCES IN WILDERNESS SETTINGS, HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH ALL OF THE PEOPLE GOING INTO THE BACK COUNTY, AND MANAGING TRAILS AND CROWDS.

MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE THOSE COURSES ARE MID-CAREER PROFESSIONALS WHO WANT TO UPDATE THEIR SKILLS OR THOSE WHO WANT TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO DEAL WITH THE KEY POLICY QUESTIONS.

THE COURSES ARE TAUGHT BY GUNDERSON AND LUND, AND THEY WORKED AS A WILDERNESS ADVISOR FOR 28 YEARS BEFORE GETTING HER PH.D.

AND WE ARE ALSO CONNECTED WITH THE WILDERNESS CENTER HERE IN MISSOOLA, STARTED IN 1994.

WE'VE BEEN OPERATING AS A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE BUT OF COURSE DISTANCE LEARNING OFFERS SO MUCH MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN BECAUSE OF THE WEB PRESENCE THAT CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR.

STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO TAKE THESE COURSES IN AN ASYNCHRONOUS MANNER, MEANING THEY ARE ENCOURAGING TO CHECK IN AND THERE ARE DISCUSS FORUMS FOR INTERACTION WITH OTHER STUDENTS, THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLETE RESEARCH PAPERS AND THEY HAVE SIX MONTHS TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

THE SCHOOL OPERATES ON A SCHEDULE OF SPRING AND FALL LIKE MANY COURSES ALTHOUGH THE STUDENTS HAVE A LOT OF FLEXIBILITY IN BEING ANAL -- ABLE TO COMPLETE IT.

AND THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES REALIZE THEY ARE GETTING THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION AND IT ALSO CONNECTS THEM TO OTHER WILDERNESS TOOLS EITHER BY THE FOREST SERVICE OR THE WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER.

IN ADDITION, THE INTERAGENCY WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT CENTER, WE'VE CONNECTED UP TO FORM WILDERNESS.NET FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO VISIT AND ENJOY THE WILDERNESS SO THAT AMERICANS RECOGNIZE AND VALUE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.

THIS HAS GIVEN US THE IMPETUS BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE NRDLC TO BE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR OFFERINGS AND IN THE SPRING OF 2010, NOT SO FAST AS N.C. STATE GETTING GREAT COURSES UP AND RUNNING IN THE FALL OF 2009, WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER CONFLICT RESOLUTION COURSES BECAUSE THEY HAVE A CERTIFICATE THAT WILL BE GOING ON LINE ABOUT A YEAR FROM TODAY.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE A PART AND DON, I THANK YOU AND ALL OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS HERE, AND I THINK IT'S A GREAT WAY TO GET THE INFORMATION OUT TO A BROAD AUDIENCE.

>> D. CHARPIO: AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL STAY ON THE PHONE WITH US, AND THANK YOU.

WE MAY HAVE QUESTIONS LATER.

>> J. BURCHFIELD: BE DELIGHTED TO.

>> D. CHARPIO: AND NOW TO ANOTHER PHONE PARTNER OUT THERE.

MIKE MORTIMER.

MIKE, GIVE US SPECIFICS ON YOUR ON-LINE OFFERINGS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM AND ON THE MASTERS

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM.

>> M. MORTIMER: THANK YOU, AND I HOPE THAT I CAN PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS.

THE DEPARTMENT IS LOCATED IN BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA ALTHOUGH THE SHOP WHICH THE ON-LINE MMR IS OFFERED IS ACTUALLY UP HERE OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE HAVE FACILITIES HERE IN FALLS CHURCH FOR THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA, AND THAT IS JUST OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY HERE.

WE OFFER A NATURAL RESOURCES DEGREE BOTH AS AN ON-LINE AND A LIVE DEGREE AS WELL AS A GRADUATE CERTIFY FAT -- CERTIFICATE IN NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH IS A FOUR-COURSE OFFERING.

THAT IS A 33-CREDIT-HOUR DEGREE AND REQUIRES FOUR SPECIFIC CORE COURSES WHICH LEAVES STUDENTS WITH PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO CHOOSE ELECTIVES.

WE, BECAUSE OF OUR LOCATION TEND TO HAVE AREAS OF EMPHASIS IN URBAN ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL AND BECAUSE OF OUR LOCATION NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C. THE PROGRAM TENDS TO CATER TO PUBLIC AGENCIES, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VARIOUS CONSULTING FIRMS THAT OPERATE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION.

WE HAVE MORE THAN 100 MASTERS STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, BOTH LIVE AND ON LINE, AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE ONE OF THE OLDER MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM, WE THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO TRY TO KEEP OUR COURSES CURRENT AND WE ARE ALWAYS DEVELOPING NEW COURSE OFFERINGS.

A FEW THAT ARE UPCOMING THIS SUMMER AND FALL INCLUDE FOUNDATIONS OF FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES LAW AND POLICY, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND A NEW COURSE IN WILDLAND FIRE POLICY THAT WILL PROBABLY BE OF INTEREST TO SOME OF OUR FEDERAL CONSTITUENTS.

WE HAVE A VARIETY OF DELIVERY FORMATS DEPENDING ON WHICH INSTRUCTOR IS OFFERING THE COURSE AND STUDENTS CAN EXPECT DIFFERENT ON-LINE EXPERIENCES DEPENDING ON WHICH COURSE THEY TAKE.

AS I MENTIONED THIS IS A NON-THESIS MASTERS DEGREE AND IT'S AVAILABLE ENTIRELY ON LINE AT THIS POINT AND WE ARE HAPPY TO OFFER IT THAT WAY.

I'M HAPPY TO FIELD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CERTIFICATE OR THE FULL-BLOWN MASTERS DEGREE.

WE HAVE STUDENT WHO ENTER AND THEN TRANSITION AFTER THEIR FOUR COURSES INTO THE MASTERS PROGRAM.

OUR COURSE OFFERINGS ARE QUITE BROAD AND WE'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY TO WORK WITH THE DISTANCE LEARNING CONSORTIUM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME OF THE OTHER SPECIALTIES THAT OTHER UNIVERSITIES OFFER TO THE CONSORTIUM.

THANKS, DON.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, MIKE, AND PLEASE STAND BY, OUR QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION WILL START AFTER A COUPLE MORE PRESENTATIONS.

AND NOW TO UTAH STATE

AND JUDY KURTZMAN.

JUDY, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT UTAH STATE'S ON-LINE OFFERINGS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NRDLC PARTNERSHIP?

>> J. KURTZMAN: THANK YOU, DON.

WE ARE CURRENTLY OFFERING A NUMBER OF COURSES ON LINE.

THIS PROGRAM IS GEARED TOWARD WORKING NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS.

IT'S A 33-CREDIT NON-THESIS DEGREE PROGRAM AND RATHER THAN FOCUSED ON -- THEY ACTUALLY FOCUS ON A SERIES OF ENTER -- INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES.

OUR REQUIRED COURSES INCLUDE ENTER DIMENSIONS, ECOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS AND SPECIAL INFORMATION, SUCH AS GIS OR GIA, NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY, NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATION.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF DIFFERENT METHODS THAT STUDENTS CAN TAKE THESE COURSES OR COMPLETE THE PROGRAM WITH.

FIRST -- AND I'M ASSUMING THE ONE MOST APPEALING TO OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE IS THE DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION.

WITH THIS OPTION STUDENTS CAN TAKE EITHER THE ENTIRE PROGRAM USING ON-LINE COURSES.

UTAH STATE OFFERS A NUMBER OF THEM AND WE ALSO ACCEPT UP TO 15 CREDITS FROM ANY OF THE UNIVERSITIES WITHIN THIS CONSORTIUM.

WE ALSO OFFER SHORT COURSES SO A PERSON COULD DO A COMBINATION OF ON-LINE AND SHORT COURSES.

THE SHORT COURSES ARE FROM TWO DAYS TO TWO WEEKS AND THEY ARE OFFERED IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE SHORT COURSES -- THE TWO PROGRAMS THAT U.S. USES ARE IN OUR ECO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT WHICH IS 12 CREDITS AND COMPLETES THE 401 SERIES REQUIREMENTS AND THEN WE HAVE A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, 12 CREDITS, GRADUATE LEVEL AS WELL.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS -- OH, AND I'M SORRY, YOU CAN ALSO DO THE DEGREE ON CAMPUS IF ANYBODY IS INTERESTED IN DOING THAT.

THAT GENERALLY CAN BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT A YEAR.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS, BECAUSE IT IS AN INTEREST -- AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE, WE BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS WALK AWAY WITH A BIGGER LOOK AT THE RESOURCES AND THE PEOPLE THEY SUPERVISE, AND WE HAVE THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH DRAWS FROM UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY'S STRONG TRADITION IN OUR RESEARCH AND OUR TEACHING IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

AND THEN LASTLY YOU CAN EARN THE DEGREE AT HOME WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE YOUR CAREER, WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE YOUR FAMILY.

AND YOU CAN DO IT IN A MATTER OF FIVE TO SIX YEARS IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES.

AND SO APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, JUDY.

WE KNOW THAT UTAH STATE IS WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR SHORT COURSES AND NOW IS GOING TO BE KNOWN FOR THEIR DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES AS WELL.

>> J. KURTZMAN: WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

>> D. CHARPIO: AND NOW

LET'S HEAR FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND KEN UDAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PENN STATE WORLD CAMPUS.

KEN HAS PREPARED SOME REMARKS FOR US ON JUST HOW THE PENN STATE ON-LINE CAMPUS WORKS.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK...

>> AS A PENN STATE WORLD CAMPUS LEARNING YOU WILL STUDY WITH THE SAME FACULTY THAT TEACH ON CAMPUS AND YOU HAVE ON-LINE ACCESS TO MANY OF THE STATE YOUR NAME SUPPORT

RESOURCES PENN STATE STUDENTS HAVE ON CAMPUS LIKE THE 13TH LARGEST RESEARCH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN THE U.S.

>> IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE FRIENDS TO HELP KEEP YOU MOTIVATED BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THE PENN STATE STAFF, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE TEAM WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE YOUR EXPERIENCE IS A GOOD ONE.

EVERYONE AT THE WORLD CAMPUS UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES OF STUDYING AT A DISTANCE AND ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU NAVIGATE PENN STATE FROM WHERE YOU LIVE, WHETHER IT'S AROUND THE CORNER OR THE WORLD.

OUR REGISTRATION AND RECORDS TEAM WORKS WITH YOU TO HELP REGISTER AND PAY FOR YOUR COURSES.

THEY CAN CONNECT YOU WITH A COUNSELOR FROM THE OFFICE OF PENN STATE STUDENT AID, AND IN ADDITION, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DROPPING A COURSE, TAKING EXAMS OR WHAT YOU NEED TO DO WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GRADUATE, THE REGISTRATION AND RECORD STAFF CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT, TOO.

IF YOU EVER RUN INTO TECHNICAL ISSUES RELATED TO YOUR WORLD CAMPUS STUDIES, OUR STAFF IS AVAILABLE VIA LIFE CHAT OR TELEPHONE, OR E-MAIL.

WE ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE WITH YOUR ON-LINE COURSE ENVIRONMENT, YOUR INTERNET INTERSECTION OUR TECHNICAL ISSUES PREVENTING YOU FROM ACCESSING YOUR COURSES.

I'M PROUD TO SAY WE ARE THE FIRST TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL FULL-TIME ADVISING STAFF WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

YOUR ADVISOR WILL HELP TO EVALUATE ANY TRANSFER CREDITS, CHART YOUR ACADEMIC PLAN AND CHART YOUR COURSES TO MEET YOUR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, ARE THE TOOLS LIKE ON-LINE RESOURCES AND ON-LINE TUTORING.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING ON-LINE MATH TUTORING AS WELL.

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO CONNECT OUR LEARNERS WITH PENN STATE AND WITH EACH OTHER.

WE'VE CREATED A PENN STATE WORLD CAMPUS PAGE ON FACEBOOK, AND IF YOU USE TWITTER, WE ARE ON THERE, TOO.

YOU CAN EVEN RELAX IN TRADITIONAL PENN STATE HANGOUTS LIKE THE CREAMERY AND THE DINER.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW MORE, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.

OUR FAVORITE EVENT AT THE WORLD CAMPUS ARE THE GRADUATION RECEPTIONS WE HOST EVERY SEMESTER AT THE OUTREACH BUILDING.

WE LOVE CELEBRATING THE GRADUATES' SUCCESS ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA, STOP IN AND SAY HELLO, AND THE CREAMY ICE CREAM WILL BE OUR TREAT.

>> D. CHARPIO: KEN WON'T BE WITH US ON THE PHONE TODAY BUT YOU CAN SEE THERE IS A LOT OF HELP AVAILABLE FROM THE WORLD CAMPUS AT TEN -- PENN STATE

IN A FEW MINUTES, WE WILL BE MOVING INTO OUR QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SEGMENT SO IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT FOR ANY OF US HERE ON THE PANEL OR OUR NRDLC PARTNERS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY ON THE TELEPHONE, PLEASE JUST GIVE US A CALL, SEND US AN E-MAIL OR A FAX USING THESE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESS.

YOU CAN FAX, PHONE OR E-MAIL US AND WE'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS IN A FEW MOMENTS BUT NOW MIKE IS HERE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO TO TELL US ABOUT HIS PROGRAM CAN.

>> THANK YOU.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO HAS A LONG TRADITION OF FIRE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

OUR COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFERS 18 ON-LINE COURSES WITH APPLICATION TO FIRE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT IN THOSE BROAD TOPIC AREAS.

FIRE AND RESTORATION ECOLOGY FUELS INVENTORY MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING.

GIS AND REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

AND FIRE MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS HUMAN DIMENSIONS IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND FIRE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT.

OUR WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM OFFERS TAILORED OPTIONS TO MEET DIFFERENT SETS OF EDUCATIONAL GOALS.

THE COURSE OPTIONS CAN BE TAKEN ON-LINE, ON-CAMPUS, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF THE TWO.

THESE OPTIONS INCLUDE TAKING ONE TO TWO CREDIT-BEARING COURSE TO UPGRADE YOUR KNOWLEDGE,

TO ENROLL IN FIVE TO SEVEN CREDIT-BEARING COURSES TO QUALIFY FOR A EITHER AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FIRE ECOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY,

OR TO COMBINING THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WITH ADDITIONAL ON-LINE COURSES TO MEET THE 24-CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT FOR THE GS-0401 PROGRAM.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN SEEKING FURTHER EDUCATION, THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFERS A B.S. IN FIRE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS A MASTER OF SCIENCE AND PH.D. DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH SPECIALIZATION IN FIRE ECOLOGY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

YOU CAN CONTACT OUR WEBSITE, SHOWN ON THE SCREEN.

AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ALSO CONTACT CHAD OR PENNY, OUR FACULTY MEMBERS IN THIS PROGRAM.

CHAD HOFFMAN OR PENNY MORGAN.

IN ADDITION TO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE, THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES ALSO OFFERS THE MASTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE MNR, DEGREE.

THE BROAD CURRICULUM PROVIDES AN UNDERSTANDING OF ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AND THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE AND INTERPRET ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

GRADUATES OF THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE THE ANALYTICAL AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND DECISION MAKING AND THE ROLE THAT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS PLAY IN INFLUENCING NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY.

THE MNR IS A NON-THESIS INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE PROGRAM.

IT CAN BE TAKEN ENTIRELY

ON-LINE, ENTIRELY ON-CAMPUS, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

THE MNR PROGRAM IS AIMED AT PRACTITIONERS IN THE FIELD RATHER THAN AT PROFESSIONALS SEEKING CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH.

THIS 30-CREDIT DEGREE PROGRAM ALLOWS STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM IN TWO TO THREE SEMESTERS OR OVER A MORE EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME IF OTHER COMMITMENTS SUCH AS WORK AND/OR FAMILY PROHIBIT FULL-TIME STUDY.

THE PROGRAM IS VERY FLEXIBLE AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO BUILD A CUSTOMIZED STUDY PLAN IN COLLABORATION WITH A MAJOR PROFESSOR THAT CENTERS AROUND FOUR AREAS OF EMPHASIS:

THESE AREAS ARE

PLANNING AND LAW,

ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,

HUMAN DIMENSIONS,

AND TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE PROGRAM ALSO ALLOWS INCORPORATION OF COURSE WORK FROM THREE DIFFERENT GRADUATE CERTIFICATES.

IN THE FINAL SEMESTER OF THE PROGRAM, MNR CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A FINAL ORAL PRESENTATION BASED UPON A CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOPIC.

OF THEIR INTEREST AND IN AGREEMENT WITH THE MAJOR PROFESSOR ON THE COMMITTEE.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE.

WHEN IS PROVIDED AS A PART OF THIS PRESENTATION.

DON, THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANKS, MIKE, WE APPRECIATE THE OVERVIEW.

BEFORE WE GO TO OUR QUESTION-AND-ANSWERS, LET ME ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU OUT THERE IN THE AGENCY TO TALK WITH YOUR SUPERVISORS WITH THOSE DEGREE AND COURSE PROGRAMS.

AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND HAVE YOUR SUPERVISOR SIGN OFF ON THAT.

AND SO DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO IN AND ASK QUESTIONS AND SEE WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU PURSUE AND ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS THROUGH THE USE OF THESE UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS.

AT THIS POINT WE ARE GOING TO MOVE INTO OUR QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SEGMENT.

SO DO WE HAVE ANYONE OUT THERE ON THE LINE OR -- OKAY.

WE DO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ALREADY IT LOOKS LIKE.

ONE OF THE FIRST ONES THAT WE NEED IT TALK ABOUT IS IF AN EMPLOYEE HAS -- IS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, DO WE HAVE TO ENROLL IN JUST ONE UNIVERSITY OR DO THEY HAVE TO ENROLL IN ALL OF THE UNIVERSITIES IN ORDER TO GET THEIR CREDIT?

>> DON, IT REALLY DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE LOOKING AT INDIVIDUAL COURSES OR CERTIFICATE OR A DEGREE PROGRAM.

IF THEY ARE GOING TO A DEGREE PROGRAM OR CERTIFICATE THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A HOME INSTITUTION, THE MAIN PLACE THEY GO THROUGH ADMISSIONS, AND REGISTRATION, AND IF THEY WANT TO TAKE COURSES FROM OUR CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A PART OF THAT DEGREE PROGRAM AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THEIR COMMITTEE, THEN THEY WOULD ENROLL FOR EACH OF THOSE OTHER COURSES AT EACH OF THE DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES BASED ON WHERE THEY WANT TO TAKE IT TO.

IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN INDIVIDUAL COURSES, THEN EACH TIME THEY ENROLL FOR A COURSE, THEY WOULD DO THAT THROUGH THE INDIVIDUAL CONSORTIUM MEMBER.

>> D. CHARPIO: VERY GOOD.

I ALSO KNOW THAT THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF INTERPRETERS OFFERS CERTIFICATION.

AND ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE, THERESA WOULD IT LEAD TO A PERSON MORE ABILITY TO GET CERTIFIED.

>> T. COBLE: THANK YOU, DON, WE DO INCORPORATE RESOURCES AND ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH BOTH ENTITIES AS WE PULL FROM THE INTERPRETATION PROFESSIONAL SIDE OF THINGS AND ONE OF THE AGENCIES THAT HAVE DEVELOPED A LOT OF CURRICULUM AND INTERPRETIVE TRAINING PRINCIPALS AND TECHNIQUES.

I WILL SAY FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM, WE TEND TO RELY ON THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICES COMPETENCY-BASED TEN BENCHMARK COMPETENCIES AS A KIND OF CURRICULUM CORE FOR OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM.

>> D. CHARPIO: BILL, A QUESTION ABOUT THE AGENCY APPROVALS AND SO FORTH.

IN THE FOREST SERVICE WHAT IS THE APPROVAL TO GO THROUGH AND PURSUE A DEGREE?

>> B. WOODLAND: SURE, DON, ONE OF THE PRIMARY CONCERNS WE HAVE IS TO KEEP THE EMPLOYEE FROM ENCOUNTERING SURPRISES AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO URGE YOU TO CONSULT WITH YOUR LOCAL HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST OR LIAISON.

THEY CAN HELP TO GUIDE YOU SO THERE ARE NO SURPRISES AND THE OTHER ELEMENT THAT IS IMPORTANT IS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR.

THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT YOUR COURSES AND TIME IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND WHEN THAT IS IN PLACE, AGENCY FUNDS CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR TO PAY FOR THE TUITION AND COSTS.

>> D. CHARPIO: AND I THINK THAT IS COMMON FOR THE AGENCIES, YOU NEED TO GO THROUGH AND CHECK OFF THE PROCESSES.

AND NOW WE HAVE STEVE FROM BILLINGS, MONTANA.

>> THANK YOU, YOU ANSWERED ONE OF MY QUESTIONS JUST NOW, BUT WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT GETTING FUNDING FROM HUMAN RESOURCES?

ARE THERE FOLKS WHO CAN DIRECT ME TO FUNDING FOR THE PEOPLE I SUPERVISE AND THE FIREFIGHTERS I WORK WITH IF THEY WANTED TO PURSUE A MASTERS PROGRAM?

>> D. CHARPIO: IF OUR PROGRAM AT THE BUREAU, IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WE AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER CAN I HAD -- CAN ADVISE YOU AS TO WHAT THE POLICY IS, AND IF YOU'RE IN THE FIRE PROGRAM, BILL, TELL US ABOUT THAT.

>> B. WOODLAND: IN THE FIRE PROGRAM CONSTANT NANCY JOHNSON IN TUCSON, ARIZONA THAT IS NOT ONLY WITH THE FEDERAL AGENCIES THERE BUT ALSO THE STATE AND LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS IS RIGHT THERE.

AND THEY HAVE, ALSO, VERY EXTENSIVE ON-LINE PROGRAM.

IT MAY NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO ACCREDITED COURSE WORK BUT THEY ARE WORKING ON THAT WITH A LOCAL UNIVERSITY, BUT FOR THE FINANCIAL PART AND JUST TO BE SURE AS A SUPERVISOR -- AND I APPRECIATE YOU AS A SUPERVISOR EXPRESSING THAT SUPPORT FOR YOUR BELOWS -- IS TO I THINK MARY JOHNSON AND HER STAFF WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO START.

>> ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, STEVE FOR CALLING IN.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR QUESTION AND IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE, FEEL FREE TO CALL BILL OR MYSELF AND WE'LL TRY TO GET YOU TO THE RIGHT PERSON.

AT QUESTION WE HAVE IS HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE A MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM IN D.L.?

FOR THOSE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE, HOW LONG DOES IT NORMALLY TAKE?

TIM?

>> T. BURCHAM: IN OUR PROGRAM WE TRY TO OFFER ABOUT SIX HOURS OF CREDIT THAT FITS NEARLY EVERYBODY IN THE PROGRAM.

THEY MAY BE TAKING DIFFERENT SIX HOURS BUT WE FIND THEY USUALLY NEED ABOUT SIX HOURS OF GRADUATE WORK IF THEY ARE WORKING IN A PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT, AND WE TRY TO OFFER THAT FALL, SPRING AND SUMMER, AND SO IT'S THEORETICAL POSSIBLE TO FINISH IN A TWO-YEAR TIME FRAME, AND WE FIND THAT THOSE WHO MOVE ALONG AND TAKE THE 6 -- THE SIX HOURS FINISH IN TWO TO TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

>> D. CHARPIO: JUDY.

>> J. KURTZMAN: I WOULD SAY OUR STUDENTS ARE MAKING BETWEEN THREE AND SIX AND ARE FINISHING IN TWO AND A HALF TO THREE YEARS.

>> D. CHARPIO: OTHERS?

>> I WOULD JUST ADD, DON, IT SEEMS WHEN YOU'RE RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT FOR A LITTLE BIT AND THEN YOU'RE ALSO TRYING SOMETHING NEW IN THE FORM OF DISTANCE LEARNING WE OFFER COUNSEL THEIR STUDENTS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND WANT TO JUMP IN WITH BOTH FEET BUT IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO START OUT WITH ONE CLASS THE FIRST SEMESTER, THREE TO FOUR HOURS AND GET A FEEL FOR HOW THAT WORKS WITH YOUR SCHEDULE, AND HOW IT WORKS AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE WELL SUITED TO A BIT MORE SELF-PACED TYPE -- AS FAR AS KEEPING YOURSELF ON TRACK -- RATHER THAN HAVING A PROFESSOR LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER ALL THE TIME.

AND ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THEN STUDENTS ARE OFTEN MORE COMFORTABLE TAKING THAT SECOND COURSE IN THE SEMESTER.

>> D. CHARPIO: VERY GOOD.

MIKE?

>> M. WHITEMAN: WE FIND THAT THOSE TAKING IT BOTH LIVE AND ON LINE CAN GENERALLY FINISH SOONER THAN THOSE DEPENDING ON ALL ON-LINE COURSES BUT WE HAVE STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE IN A YEAR OR LESS IF IT'S REALLY INTENSE, AND IN THE SUMMER.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, MIKE FOR THAT COMMENT.

AND MIKE KOCUREK OUT THERE IN NORTH CAROLINA WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT REQUIRE A DEGREE OR A CERTIFICATE -- DOES NORTH CAROLINA STATE ENCOURAGE UNDERGRADUATE COURSES AS A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS THESE DEGREES AND IF THEY DO TAKE THEM, CAN THEY COUNT FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAMS EVENTUALLY?

MIKE?

>> M. KOCUREK: YES, I THINK THAT EACH INSTITUTION MAY HAVE ITS OWN SPECIFIC RULE.

IN GENERAL YOU HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT TAKING UNDERGRADUATE COURSES AND HAVING THEM APPLY TO GRADUATE -- FOR GRADUATE CREDIT.

I WOULD RECOMMEND CHECKING OF COURSE AT EACH INSTITUTION.

WE CAN ACCEPT AT N.C. STATE SOME -- VERY LIMITED 400-LEVEL COURSES BUT AGAIN, IT'S LIMITED.

ONE OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT IS NOT TAKING TOO MANY COURSES ANYWAY AND THEN EXPECTING TO HAVE THEM TRANSFERRED.

I WOULD INQUIRE VERY DEFINITELY AT YOUR SO-CALLED HOME INSTITUTION TO SEE WHAT THEIR POLICIES ARE AND HOW THESE TRANSFER CREDITS WORK.

IF YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK YOU COULD GET 12, 15 CREDITS TRANSFERRED BY TAKING COURSES IN YOUR HOME STATE AND SAVING A LOT OF MONEY, AND THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS, VERY LIMITED AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL AND I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD TO OPEN THIS UP TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO SEE IF THEY ARE THE SAME OF DIFFERENT.

>> D. CHARPIO: GOOD ADVISE, MIKE ABOUT CHECKING FIRST.

BEFORE YOU START LOADING UP ON THE COURSES.

OTHER COMMENTS?

>> I WOULD JUST SAY IN OUR DEGREE PROGRAM WHEN WE TALK ABOUT SPLIT-LEVEL COURSES AND FOR THE AUDIENCE THAT IS SENIOR-LEVEL COURSES THAT HAVE A GRADUATE COMPONENT TO THEM, TYPICALLY HAVE ADDITIONAL DUTIES ASSIGNED IF THEY ARE TAKING THEM FOR GRADUATE CREDIT -- TYPICALLY A WRITING ASSIGNMENT I MIGHT ADD -- WE CAN GENERALLY ONLY ACCEPT ABOUT THREE OF THOSE COURSES AT THE SPLIT LEVEL, AND SO I WOULD CAUTION OUR AUDIENCE TO MAKE SURE THEY LOOK AT THE INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION'S REQUIREMENTS THIS THAT AREA.

BECAUSE MOST OF THEM ARE GOING TO REQUIRE ON THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT MOST OF THE CONTENT BE AT THE GRADUATE ONLY LEVEL.

>> DON, IF I MIGHT.

THERE IS A BIT OF A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING ABLE TO TRANSFER A COURSE TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION AND HAVING THAT COURSE APPLY TO A DEGREE PROGRAM.

I THINK AS A PART OF THE CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT, WE ALL ACCEPT EACH OTHER'S COURSES FOR TRANSFERRING IN, WHETHER OR NOT YOUR COMMITTEE, YOUR MAJOR PROFESSOR, WILL ACCEPT THAT COURSE AS PART AND APPLYING TO YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM IS A DIFFERENT PROCESS.

AND THAT IS WHY WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR MAJOR PROFESSOR, WITH THEIR COMMITTEE, IF THEY ARE IN A DEGREE PROGRAM BEFORE THEY START SIGNING UP FOR COURSES.

BECAUSE WHILE OF COURSE NO EDUCATION IS EVER WASTED, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SPENDING MONEY ON COURSES THAT YOU THEN FIND OUT ARE NOT GOING TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THAT DEGREE.

>> D. CHARPIO: GOOD POINT.

>> M. KOCUREK: AND WE HEARD THE TERM SPLIT COURSES.

IF YOU SEE COURSES LISTED THROUGH THE MAZE OF NUMBERS AT THE 500 LEVEL THOSE TEND TO BE BLENDS OF SENIOR LEVEL AND GRADUATE.

THOSE ARE ALL PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE IN GENERAL, IF YOU HAVE 400 OR 300 THEN DEFINITELY LOOK FOR SOME TERMINOLOGY THAT SAYS THEY ARE SPLIT AND COULD SATISFY GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, MIKE, AND THANK YOU.

JIM OUT IN MONTANA I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, DOES THE UNIVERSITY COUNT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE TOWARD A DEGREE PROGRAM?

>> YES, WE DO, AND THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR CREDIT IS A WRITE-UP OR ABILITY TO SYNTHESIZE THAT EXPERIENCE.

YOU CAN'T JUST SAY I WORKED FOR TEN YEARS DOING THIS, DO I GET CREDIT?

YOU HAVE TO TURN IT INTO A PRODUCT THAT DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC CAPACITY.

AND WE ACTUALLY REQUIRE THAT OF ALL OF OUR UNDERGRADUATES AND IN OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM IT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMMON TO SEE PEOPLE GETTING CREDIT FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE OF GRADUATE-LEVEL INTERNSHIPS OR PRACTICUM.

>> D. CHARPIO: THAT IS THE ULTIMATE IN DISTANCE LEARNING AND THANK YOU FOR THAT, AND I KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WATCHING ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING SURE THEIR PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE COUNTS.

AND SO GUIDANCE, CONTACT THE UNIVERSITIES AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET SOME CREDIT FOR THAT, AND INDEED IT IS DISTANCE LEARNING.

>> AND SOME UNIVERSITIES OFFER INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDITS.

IF YOU SEE YOU WILL BE HAVING SOME EXPERIENCES GOING FORWARD, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROACTIVELY INCORPORATE THAT INTO AN INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE, THAT IS ANOTHER OPTION FOR HAVING THAT EXPERIENCE APPLY TO YOUR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

>> D. CHARPIO: TWO MORE QUESTIONS.

ONE HAS TO DO WITH CAN STUDENTS TAKE COURSES AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND TRANSFER THEM INTO THE CONSORTIUM FOR CREDIT, AND GOING BACK, WE UNDERSTAND IT HAS TO BE APPROVED BUT I ASSUME IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC --

>> MOST ACCREDITED UNIVERSITIES HAVE A PROCESS BY WHICH COURSES CAN BE TRANSFERRED IN FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

WHAT MAKES THE CONSORTIUM A LITTLE BIT EASIER IS THAT THERE IS ALREADY AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS SO WE ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH EACH OTHER'S COURSES.

AND USUALLY WHEN YOU HAVE TO DO A TRANSFER, YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE WITH SOME DOCUMENTATION AND THAT IS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THROUGH THE AGREEMENTS THAT THE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS HAVE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

>> D. CHARPIO: NOT ALL OF YOU ARE LOCATED WHERE SOME OF OUR AUDIENCES ARE LOCATED WITH THEIR WORK AND IT IS BENEFICIAL TO STEP ON CAMPUS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, AND SO IN THE FUTURE, IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADD UNIVERSITIES TO THE CONSORTIUM?

>> YES, THERE IS AND WE HAVE HAD SOME INTEREST FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND WE ARE ALSO LOOKING AT EXAMINING AREAS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS AS A PART OF THE CONSORTIUM, AND MORE PROACTIVELY WE ARE APPROACHING OTHER UNIVERSITIES TO INTRODUCE THEM AND INVITE THEM INTO THE CONSORTIUM.

AND SO WE DON'T SEE IT AS BEING FIXED AT THE TEN INSTITUTIONS.

WE SO FAR HAVE NEVER BEEN FIXED.

IT'S BEEN A CONSTANTLY IMPROVING AND GROWING AND CHANGING ORGANIZATION.

AND SO CERTAINLY WE HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY, BUT, OF COURSE, IN A DISTANCE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, THE LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY IS REALLY ALMOST IRRELEVANT.

THAT IS NOT WHAT YOU NEED TO BE FOCUSED ON PRIMARILY WHEN YOU'RE MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT WHICH UNIVERSITIES OR COURSES YOU WILL -- OR COURSES YOU WILL BE TAKING.

>> D. CHARPIO: MIKE?

>> M. KOCUREK: SO MANY STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD CAN TAKE COURSES WITHOUT EVER STEPPING ON A CAMPUS AND SOMETIMES THE FIRST TIME WE SEE THEM FROM CHINA, SPAIN -- IS WHEN THEY GET THEIR DEGREES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THEY COME TO THE CEREMONIES, IT'S VERY SPECIAL FOR THEM.

>> D. CHARPIO: OKAY, AND NOW SOME WRAP-UP COMMENTS

DO YOU HAVE ANY FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE FOREST SERVICE PERSPECTIVE?

>> THANK YOU, AND I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE JOB FOR 15 YEARS AND I GET A LOT OF TESTIMONIALS FROM FIRST-TIME EMPLOYEES WHO TAKE A COURSE.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT AMAZES THEM IS THE ONE-ON-ONE CONTACT THEY HAVE WITH THEIR INSTRUCTOR.

AND MANY OF THEM ARE USING AGENCY EXPERT SPECIALISTS AS INSTRUCTORS IN THE COURSE.

IT'S ALWAYS UNDER ACADEMIC SUPERVISION, BUT IT'S ALWAYS ONE-ON-ONE AND THERE IS NO SITTING IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM HOPING THAT YOU WON'T BE CALLED ON.

AND I DID WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE ISSUE OF COSTS.

ALL OF THE AGENCIES ARE UNDER THE GUN ON COSTS AND FLIGHTS AND PER DIEM, THESE COURSES ALLOW YOU TO STILL MAINTAIN YOUR FAMILY CONTACTS AND YOUR WORK PRODUCTIVITY, AND IT'S VALUABLE FOR YOUR TIME.

WITH THE ASYNCHRONOUS METHODS, YOU MAKE THE TIME AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

WE DO HAVE EMPLOYEES AND SUPERVISORS, AS AN EXAMPLE, AND I WILL CALL ON THE NATIONAL OFFICE IN FLORIDA AND THEY HAVE TWO EMPLOYEES IN THE PROGRAM AND HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE SF182 FOR ABOUT \$14,000 OVER A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM, AND OF COURSE WE HAVE TO EXPEND FUNDS AS CONGRESS APPROPRIATES THEM, AND THEY ARE ALLOCATED EACH YEAR BUT THAT SHOWS THE COMMITMENT OF THAT SUPERVISOR AND HER EMPLOYEES DOWN THERE.

THE FINAL WORD IS BEFORE YOU GET TOO ENTHUSIASTIC, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR AND SO THERE ARE NO SURPRISES AT THE BACK END OF YOUR EFFORT WITH YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALISTS.

THANKS, DON.

>> D. CHARPIO: GOOD AT VISE, AND WE -- GOOD ADVICE, WE ARE MOVING TOWARD THIS AND SEE IT AS A PLUS FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR ADVANCED DEGREES OR STAY UP WITH RESEARCH AND WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FIELD.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR PANELIST MEMBERS BUT BEFORE I DO THAT, KIERAN, FINAL THOUGHTS?

>> K. LINDSEY: THANK YOU, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING THAT WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO, FUEL COSTS AND THE ABILITY TO GO TO CLASSES WITHOUT HAVING TO COMMUTE BACK AND FORTH TO A CAMPUS, NO PARKING FEE, THAT IS ALWAYS GOOD.

AND OTHER THAN THAT I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT THEY CAN VISIT THE CONSORTIUM WEBSITE, [HTTP://WWW.NRDLC.ORG](http://www.nrdlc.org) AND FIND A LIST OF ALL OF THE COURSES BEING OFFERED BY THE CONSORTIUM MEMBERS.

THEY CAN FIND INFORMATION ON WHEN THE COURSES ARE GOING TO BE OFFERED NEXT AND FIND INFORMATION ON THE CERTIFICATES AND THE DEGREE PROGRAMS AND ALSO FIND LINKS TO EACH OF THE CONSORTIUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER ALL OF THOSE DIFFERENT URL'S OR IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE THEIR PENS HANDY AS QUICKLY AS THEY WOULD LIKE, THEY CAN GO THERE AND MAKE AN EASY CONNECTION AND LINK TO EACH OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED HERE TODAY AND GET STARTED.

I THINK THAT DISTANCE LEARNING IS JUST AN ABSOLUTE NATURAL FOR THIS PROFESSION.

>> D. CHARPIO: THANK YOU, I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS AND ALL OF OUR PANEL MEMBERS' WORK AND THE TIME THEY PROVIDED ON STAGE AS WELL AS OUT THERE IN PHONE LAND.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BE UP ON THE BLM KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTER AS WELL AS THE FOREST SERVICE WILL HAVE IT ON LINE AND THE CONSORTIUM WILL AS WELL.

PLEASE ADVISE THAT YOU GO ON TO THE WEB AND LEARN MORE ABOUT DEGREES AND INCREASING COMPETENCES THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU, PANELISTS WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE.

A VERY NICE JOB.

>> THANK YOU, DON.

>> THIS BROADCAST HAS BEEN A PRESENTATION OF THE BLM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.