

# Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System



*A consortium of Indiana's public and independent colleges and universities*



## Distance education (DE) in Indiana

DE provides workforce retraining opportunities, increases the supply of college-educated Hoosier adults, and improves K-16 transitions through early enrollment, other courses to prepare high school students for college success.

DE enrollments jumped from 104,000 in 2003–04 to 117,000 in 2004–05 to a projected 145,000 in 2005–06 for an overall increase of 39 percent (an estimated full-time equivalent of **14,450**).

## 2005–06 highlights

### ■ **Statewide distance education course inventory**

Last year, there were **268,540 unique searches** of IHETS' online inventory of courses and programs offered via distance education, including college credit, high school, and continuing education.

#### — **3,224 course offerings (spring 2006)**

- 2,348 undergraduate; 233 graduate; 429 continuing education; 214 high school dual-credit or advanced placement

#### — **212 programs (spring 2006)**

- 40 associate degree; 53 bachelor or bachelor completion; 33 master degree; one PhD; 32 continuing education; 53 certificate, endorsement, and/or licensure

### ■ **Key workforce education contributions**

Distance education courses/programs addressed several workforce needs:

- 42 targeted shortages of **healthcare** workers; 36 advanced the skills of **K-12 teachers** and administrators; 18 were for **law enforcement** and corrections; 38 focused on **technology, business, and engineering** for advanced manufacturing, life sciences, logistics, and high-tech industries.

### ■ **Professional development**

Last year, IHETS coordinated **13 professional development events** (including conferences and Web conferences), reaching **3,492 participants** who indicated an average overall satisfaction rating of 89 percent.

- **2005 IHETS Tech Summit:** A renewed focus on higher education resulted in 22 presentation proposals and a significant increase in member involvement. A revamped sponsorship structure recovered all costs, and evaluation feedback from attendees was the strongest in the event's six-year history. Consortium members led 19 concurrent sessions and panel discussions.
- **Virtual Brownbag Series:** Participation in this online series more than doubled in 2005–06 with a shift from video to Web conferencing, from approximately 30 host campuses and 1,000 participants in 2004–05 to 40 hosts and 3,000 participants in 2005–06. The monthly event covers topics such as learning objects and other interactive learning tools, classroom response systems, copyright issues, online course development, e-portfolios and learning assessment, and course management systems.



## 2005-06 highlights *(continued)*

### ■ **State Universities Voice Network (SUVON)**

Private voice network connecting Indiana higher education institutions for educational and administrative purposes; 77 campuses connected, reaching nearly 80 percent of state calling areas; 6,000,000 calls; 4,784,156 minutes.

### ■ **Community outreach**

#### — **IHETS Webcasting increases outreach by making available:**

- President Mikhail Gorbachev's public address at DePauw University
- Seventh quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (Web hits = 275,605 in first month)
- Two Indiana Innovation Network conferences (*Digital Fabrication: Focus on Indiana* and *Advanced Materials: Orthopedics, Nanotechnology, Fuel Cells, and Carbon Composites*)

### ■ **Fully managed, Web conferencing (IHETS Interactive) launched July 1, 2006**

Replacing the satellite network, this service was utilized more in its pilot year (3,902 hours) than IHETS Television in its last year. Accessed by 1,900\* consortium faculty, staff, and students via desktop and laptop PCs with Internet connections from homes, workplaces, campuses, receive sites, and community learning centers, it was used to offer:

- 19 undergraduate and graduate summer courses
- 33 undergraduate and graduate fall courses
- 15 professional development opportunities

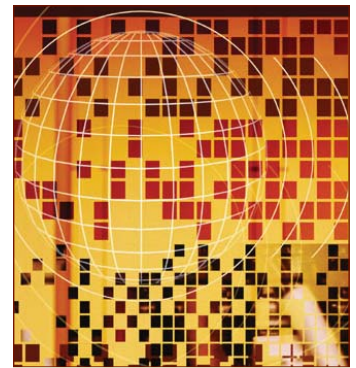
\* *This number reflects summer and fall 2006 access (partial academic year)*

### ■ **Video conferencing at 250 Indiana receive sites**

- Video conferencing reached an all-time high in 2005, totaling 35,771 site hours. Usage grew by nine percent growth during first half of 2006.
- 93 percent of all use is by higher education
- **418 receive site public-access rooms**
  - 145 college campuses and learning centers; 21 public libraries; 131 Purdue Extension facilities; 121 high schools and educational centers
- **36 receive site nonpublic-access rooms**
  - 22 correctional facilities; 14 state government offices

### ■ **Training, demonstrations, and technical support**

- **31 on-site sessions at member facilities:** Average session length was over 2.5 hours. Attendees included instructors, deans, directors, department heads, chancellors, IT personnel, and DE staff.
- **30 Web conferencing sessions originating from IHETS:** Attended by learning center coordinators and higher ed staff. Average session length was one hour or less.
- **IHETS Interactive training material:** Eleven training manuals, quick start guides, and internal process documents were written, designed, and



### **IHETS Television**

Televised network using satellite system for providing credit and noncredit educational content to urban and rural Hoosiers of all ages retired 6/30/06

At its 2001 peak, **425 receive sites** in Indiana and other states were connected

Thousands of students completed entire degree programs in critical occupations like **nursing, engineering, and business administration.**

#### **Each month, IHETS Help Desk analysts average:**

- > 1,411 calls
- > 20 minutes per call
- > 225 trouble tickets



## 2005-06 highlights *(continued)*

### ■ **Streaming and video conferencing for Indiana state government offices, departments, and agencies**

IHETS facilitated and increased open access to the inner workings of Indiana state government for Hoosier adults and students of all ages—from elementary to law school—by Webcasting streaming video and/or audio and by video conferencing.

#### — **Web hits to state streaming (audio and/or video) content:**

Webcasts of executive, legislative, and judicial branches proceedings and debates included the:

- 2005 and 2006 **State-of-the-State addresses**
- Select **Indiana Supreme Court** arguments
- Legislative sessions from the **Indiana General Assembly** and the **House Ways & Means Committee**
- **Indiana Secretary of State**  
*(Help America Vote Act [HAVA] training videos)*
- **Indiana Department of Health**  
*(Crisis, emergency risk communication seminars)*
- **INshape Indiana**  
*(2005 Health Summit on Obesity Prevention)*

**Total Web hits for all state government streaming = 257,151**

#### — **IHETS video conferencing services were utilized by:**

- Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)  
*Four training sessions for law enforcement officers*
- Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)  
*Professional development, some regarding delivery of dual-credit, advanced placement high school courses*

### ■ **Other IHETS accomplishments**

- Recognized by American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) with Irving Barrier-Buster Award in Washington, DC for **emergency service and disaster recovery in Gulf Coast** after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; featured in *Chronicle of Higher Education* article on hurricane impact on Louisiana and Mississippi campuses.
- **2005 Distance Education Week event at Indiana State House**; speakers included Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Sen. David Ford, and Dr. Lloyd Benjamin, chair of the IHETS board and president of Indiana State Univ.
- Webcasting for WFYI on its **Indiana Reading and Information Services (IRIS)** project.
- Launched statewide pilot project with Purdue Extension to bring **online educational opportunities to Hispanics** living in four Indiana counties.



“I would also like to thank the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System for their efforts to make this happen...”

*Brian C. Bosma,  
Speaker of the House, 1/4/05*

IHETS manages, streams, and archives all content on the Indiana Department of Education’s **Indiana Video Information Network (IVIN)**.

In addition, IHETS provided the state with technical consulting services on an **Indiana State Library** wireless project and **Warrick Co. Emergency Management Agency** project, among others.

