Internationalizing Teamwork at University of Florida Extension Using Web Based Interactive Video

Pete Vergot III, and Doug E. Mayo, University of Florida

Introduction  University of Florida IFAS Extension faced with reduced budgets, increase demand for services from extension clientele and the desire to “Internationalize Extension” and increase multi-state Extension programming added the use of web-based interactive video as a tool for extension workshops and seminars. Web based interactive video provides for increased participation during program planning and non-formal educational delivery. The goals of increasing teamwork and Internationalizing Extension of Extension in Florida were enhanced using this new technology.

Purpose and Objectives  The purpose of using web-based interactive video was to enhance national and international faculty collaboration of extension non-formal education and reduce the amount of travel time and expense for extension clientele both domestically and internationally. This channel of information and teaching tool brings together local extension faculty and extension specialists to deliver high quality non-formal education in local communities throughout the world.

- Reduce the cost of collaboration regionally, nationally and internationally
- Increase University of Florida Extension programming for clientele worldwide
- Increase multi-state Extension programming for clientele
- Increase the communication locally between state extension specialists and county extension faculty
- Extension faculty reduced travel time and expense during program delivery
- Extension clientele will need only to commute to their local County Extension office and join with other clientele in their respective communities in simultaneous workshops and seminars

Results and Conclusions  Web-based interactive video equipment and high-speed internet networks were installed in county offices across Florida and university departments at the University of Florida. County and state faculty were trained in the use of this new channel of information and teaching delivery tools. Extension faculty using this technology have enhanced their options in non-formal education delivery while reducing both travel time and costs.

Using this new technology county and state extension faculty in Florida have enhanced extension program delivery and reduced the amount of travel for extension clientele. This channel of information and teaching brought together county extension faculty and state extension specialists to deliver high quality non-formal education. Faculty have increased their capacity for program planning and delivery of non-formal education statewide, nationwide and worldwide.

Educational Importance  International Extension program delivery can be enhanced to many locations of the world. Web-based Interactive Video reduces both the distance and costs of non-formal extension education. This channel of information and teaching allows for the delivery of high quality workshops and seminars without the barriers of distance and time and the rising costs of travel.