

NSF DLNET Status Report December 13, 2000

Task 1 Progress

ASEE continues to make great strides in all facets of the Learnon.org project. Visitors to the site now enjoy a fresh new redesign which offers a more user friendly site style and an all new convenient Quick Course Lookup. Additionally, visitors to Learnon.org will now find more courses from more course providers than ever before. To date, Learnon.org contains 4,433 courses from 67 course providers. We believe this to be the largest, most comprehensive concentration of engineering and technology courses available anywhere in the world, and we're still growing.

The volume of content on the Learnon site also continues to grow and evolve. The site's Resources section contains many new articles from major media sources, papers from academics examining continuing education and distance learning, valuable news items, conference announcements and hundreds of links to other sites dedicated to continuing education and distance learning. ASEE staff have also developed a monthly electronic newsletter, *Developments in Distance Learning*, for distribution to Learnon.org visitors who are interested in the latest news, research and innovations taking place in the world of continuing engineering education and distance learning.

ASEE's marketing team has launched a deliberate and targeted outreach campaign to promote Learnon.org to the engineering community as well as to the general public as a whole, and continues to utilize all avenues available to spread the word about this exciting and useful new service. Recently, Learnon.org gained national media attention through *US News and World Report* and *IEEE Spectrum*. Additionally, Learnon.org has been mentioned in the International Association of Continuing Engineering Education's (IACEE) newsletter, in the National Society of Professional Engineer's (NSPE) *Engineering Times* and in the American Society of Civil Engineer's (ASCE) *Civil Engineer*. Learnon.org staff are also working closely with many of the engineering professional societies to promote the site to their respective members. On the WWW, Learnon.org has been established with many of the search engines such as Yahoo, Alta Vista, Google, etc... and has partnered with such well known sites as Seminarplanet.com, the Institute of Industrial Engineers, B2B Showplace, etc... to help spread the word and build brand recognition.

Task 2 Progress

ASEE staff have identified approximately 70 software companies that develop teaching tools that facilitate Web-based teaching. In order to link these specialized companies with interested educators, ASEE is developing a comprehensive online database which will allow interested educators to “test drive” samples of their web-based teaching tools.

This unique Web-site will be a sub-site of Learnon.org's Course Provider interface and will enable engineering educators to rapidly locate and access web-based teaching tools without the labor intensive need to recreate their material. Each software company will be contacted by ASEE staff and offered the opportunity to participate. Currently, ASEE staff are compiling the list of software companies and are in the early phases of requirements gathering for the database.