

Distance education learning environments in inservice teacher education: A new instrument

Scott Walker, M.A.G., walks@lake.ollusa.edu

Education Department

Our Lady of the Lake University

411 SW 24th Street

San Antonio, Texas 78207

The purpose of this study was to validate a new psychosocial learning environments instrument for post-secondary distance education that would be used in a university Education department, to identify any associations between the learning environment and inservice teacher attitudes, and to describe inservice teacher and instructor perceptions of the learning environment.

Reliability and validity analyses were conducted on 680 responses to validate the instrument, followed by an analysis of the association between learning environment scales and a scale of attitude. A case study of an inservice distance education class was conducted using the newly validated instrument. Validation resulted in a seven scale, 42-item Distance Education Learning Environments Survey (DELES) and an analysis of the pilot class.