

Hawaii International Conference on Education
January 7-10, 2003
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
Honolulu, Hawaii

1. Title of Submission: A Report on Issues Related to Teaching Education:
Supervision of Rural Student Teaching Placements
Through the Use of Distance Technology
2. Names of Authors: Sharon L. Tebben, Dean of the School of Education
Dennis Scott, Director of Field Placements
3. Affiliation Northern State University
4. Mailing Address: Northern State University
School of Education
1200 South Jay Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
5. Email Addresses: tebbens@northern.edu
scott@northern.edu

6. Abstract for publication in the conference proceedings:

A Report on Issues Related to Teaching Education:
Supervision of Rural Student Teaching Placements
Through the Use of Distance Technology

By Dennis Scott and Sharon Tebben
October 2002

This presentation shares the successes and challenges of supervision of student teachers in distant rural placements through the use of distance technology.

Northern State University is located in Aberdeen, South Dakota, a town with a population of 26,000. The public school system operates five elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Decreasing numbers of school age children within the district have resulted in fewer classrooms and teachers to host the multiple field experiences required in the teacher education programs. At the same time, the rural nature of the state means that other school districts are not located within easy commuting distance of Aberdeen. Students are reluctant to take placements outside of Aberdeen because of the cost of travel and relocation.

At the initiative of the governor of the state, all K-12 schools and public institutions of higher education have been connected by wiring and through distance education technology. One year ago, Northern State University inaugurated its State-Wide Center for E-learning with additional funding from the state to provide high school classes by distance technology to small, rural schools unable to hire teachers for advanced senior classes in mathematics, chemistry, physics, English, Spanish, and French. Students in teacher education are trained to use the distance technology for instruction.

As part of this project, twenty stipends of \$1,000 per student teacher have been provided per semester to defray the costs associated with taking a rural placement. Students accepting such a placement are provided with a high quality laptop and webcam and trained in the use of web conferencing. The cooperating teachers in the K-12 rural schools agree to assist the student teachers in the integration of technology and to participate in the supervision of the student teachers through the distance technology, a combination of distance education studios and web conferencing. The program was piloted last spring and continued this fall semester. Problems and successes of the program to date will be shared with conference participants.

