



Distance Education Online

By: Ebony Andrea Ferebee

The directors for the distance education program, held in the Information Technology Center at Elizabeth City State University are Kimberley Stevenson and Loretta Powers. According to Powers "Many are aware of the total advantages of being able to obtain an education online." With an online education you are not obligated to stay in one set location, the classroom. The problems however, exist when it comes to the courses that are

available.

Most colleges do not offer every major online. For example, ECSU may offer an online degree in Arts and Humanities, Business, Education and Teaching, Vocational and Career Training but what about Communications, Public relations or Journalism for that matter? What does the student who is interested in obtaining a degree in Journalism and is unavailable to physically attend classes because she can not find a babysitter do? What if a major is offered but you can only take one

or two courses at time to complete a four year degree? More than likely this student will have to take courses only closest to their major, and should be ready to be a participant in the online community for a great deal of time.

According to the ECSU website, the mission of the distance education online supports and encourages collaborative efforts involving faculty, staff, and administrators, working to serve as a model for change and growth at ECSU via distance education delivery methods. However, this is 2009 and students have to deal with more problems now than ever, even though all colleges should be able to adapt and adjust to the fast pace society in which we live today. According to Mrs. Cynthia Williams, a faculty member of the Financial Aid Department at Elizabeth City University, additional faculty members and a group of staff members that also determine if you qualify for the online community agree "that students may be able to take one or two related classes to there field of interest at a time."

Mrs. Loretta Powers, states "if a student is blackboard enhanced, has the available software, has taken prior online

classes and does not need one on one support from a teacher, no matter what their major, they will do just fine in the distance education program." Mrs. Loretta is available to answer all questions about online courses and is very enthusiast in aiding students to the new online world.

About 35% of the student population has had at least one online class in their schedule and at least 65% have already had experience with online classes whether in high school or by there freshman year in college. According to a recent questionnaire conducted with one of the leaders in the online education department, the online education programs are very successful; they say many of the students see this as a great plus to the Elizabeth City State University Community. Many teachers do not request a proctor to be present while test taking. Students find this appealing because they then are not required to go through the steps in finding an official proctor. The alternative to such procedures is the fact that most teachers provide timed-tests so that you do not have to go through the trouble of establishing a proctor.



IT REQUIRES OPPORTUNITY, PREPARATION AND ACCESS.

- The Thurgood Marshall College Fund provides leadership training resources and access:
- Access to the online leadership training program, iLearn
- Access to forums and seminars for in-person training and development.
- Access to corporations that provide internships and job opportunities.



**TMCF IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.
ARE YOU PREPARED?**

Go to www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org
and begin leadership training today!

McDonald's proudly supports the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in preparing the NEXT generation of leaders.



THE COMPASS STAFF

THE COMPASS is published by the Elizabeth City State University students under the direction of the department of Language, Literature and Communication, John Luton, Chairperson and Kip Branch, Faculty Advisor.

Executive Editor Brittnee Exum

Associate Editor Michael Dew

Associate Editor Kristin Wood

Associate Editor David Walker

Contributing Writers: Casimira Brown, Jeremy Ellis,
Ebony Andrea Ferebee, Latonya Golden, Camille McGowan, Kimnesia Powell,
Tyrone D. Reid, Cierra Sawyer, Leon Thomas, Keith Wharton

The Compass welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be sent to ECSU Box 816, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. They may be edited for length, clarity, and taste, as well as accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.