

Institute For Excellence In Distance Science Education

Also Known As: IEDSE
PO Box 1111
Englewood, CO 80150

Institutional funders should note that an organization's inclusion on guidestar.org does not satisfy IRS Rev. Proc. 2011-33 for verifying charitable status and identifying supporting organizations.

Contact Information

Institute For Excellence In Distance Science Education

Also Known As: IEDSE

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Founder and Board President
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At A Glance

Formerly Known As:

Category (NTEE): B Educational Institutions /B90 Educational Services and Schools - Other
None

Areas Served: In a specific U.S. city, cities, state(s) and/or region.
Throughout the United States

Year Founded: 2007

Mission Statement

The Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit science education organization with a mission to promote science literacy in conjunction with modern distance education delivery methods. The Institute serves secondary and post-secondary students by training and assisting their teachers in best practices and proven methods of effectively teaching laboratory science courses online and by training students in proven methods of successfully completing those online courses.

Impact Statement

The Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education has the potential to impact thousands of students by increasing the quality and number of online laboratory science courses offered to students by secondary and post-secondary institutions, including courses in biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemistry, physics, and forensics. Distance education helps provide more opportunities to increase science literacy in students who, for several reasons, need an alternative to on-campus courses and has the potential to reach those who would not otherwise learn science through study; such as students living in remote, rural areas; those with special needs; and working students. Science courses delivered by distance education media can help facilitate a better understanding of science, the scientific method, and the critical thinking skills necessary for success in the global marketplace.

The Institute's professional development programs, taught by subject matter experts, will allow educators to acquire distance learning best practices from experienced science education stakeholders. These programs encompass proven online science teaching methods and enable educators to transition from teaching traditional, campus-based lab science classes to tested and successful distance education delivery methods. Educators will eventually have the opportunity to become certified in distance learning within their own specific scientific disciplines.

The Institute will also implement summer workshops designed to help at-risk high school and college students succeed in their distance-delivered science lab courses, which are required to successfully complete degrees in fields of study that promise job growth for students. The U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce projections for 2014 indicate that 15 of the 20 fastest growing occupations require "significant science or mathematics training" to successfully compete for a job.

Background Statement

The Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education was founded in Denver, Colorado in 2008 by Dr. Peter Jeschofnig, Ph.D. as a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering professional development for distance science educators with the ultimate goal to increase science literacy in Colorado.

Dr. Jeschofnig is Professor Emeritus of Science at Colorado Mountain College (CMC) and an adjunct Physics professor for the Colorado Community Colleges Online (CCC-Online). His illustrious academic career includes two prestigious Fulbright Professorships and 20 years of excellence at Colorado Mountain College (CMC), where he taught Environmental Science, Anthropology, Chemistry, and Physics. Dr. Jeschofnig was named Colorado's Distance Educator of the Year in 2001 and, until recently, was also a member of Colorado's State Faculty Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Jeschofnig earned an undergraduate degree in Geology; a Master's degree in Geology and Anthropology; a Master's degree in Science Education; a Doctorate in Anthropology; and a Doctorate in Adult Science Education.

Dr. Jeschofnig is a leading expert in the pedagogy of distance learning for science. He and his colleagues have recognized an increasing demand by students for distance education classes and a parallel need for training educators to successfully create and implement distance-delivered science course content.

Because of these parallel needs, and with encouragement from Colorado Mountain College, Dr. Jeschofnig founded the collaborative educational concept that evolved into The Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education. The Institute's mission is to promote science literacy in conjunction with today's distance education delivery methods.

How This Organization Is Funded

- Hands-OnLabs - \$60,000

Financial Data

[FAQs on Financial Data](#) | [Digitizing IRS Form 990 Data](#)

Financial Data For Fiscal Year Ending 2012

To see financial data from prior years, subscribe to [GuideStar Premium](#).

Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year Starting Jan 1, 2012

Fiscal Year Ending Dec 31, 2012

Revenue

Contributions	\$60,000
Program Services	--
Membership Dues	--
Special Events	--
Other	--
Total Revenue	\$60,000

Expenses

Program Services	\$51,330
Administrative Costs	\$42,000
Payments To Affiliates	--
Total Expenses	\$75,480

Assets & Liabilities

Total Assets	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$0
Net Assets or Fund Balance at the end of year	\$0

Balance Sheet

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Forms 990 Received from the IRS

Data Not Available

Forms 990 Provided by the Nonprofit

- [2011 Form 990](#)

Financial Statements

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Annual Reports

Formation Documents

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Program: Improving Science Literacy in Colorado through Excellent Distance Science Education Training for Teachers

Budget: \$34,220

Category: Education

Population Served: Adults

Program Description:

IEDSE's professional development programs will be held around the state of Colorado and provide educators with proven distance learning practices. These workshops will be taught by subject matter experts—experienced science faculty, instructional designers, administrators, high school teachers, and other science education stakeholders. Our programs will encompass proven online science teaching methods and enable high school and college science educators to transition from teaching campus-based lab science classes to distance education delivery/receipt using methods that have consistently shown to be superior. The Institute will eventually provide Colorado science educators with the opportunity to also become certified in distance learning pedagogy within their own specific scientific disciplines. These certifications will help improve the quality and number of distance education science courses and set a higher standard for those who teach science courses online, ultimately benefiting students.

Program Long-Term Success:

Program Short-Term Success:

Program Success Monitored by:

Program Success Examples:

Program: Improving Science Literacy in Colorado through Excellent Distance Science Education

Training for At-Risk Students

Budget: \$17,110
Category: Education
Population Served: Youth/Adolescents only (14 - 19 years)

Program Description:

Student workshops, held in summer, will help train at-risk high school and college students in proven methods of successfully completing online science courses. Student workshops will help build student confidence in doing lab experiments in their own homes; thoroughly understand those lab experiments; and go on to successfully complete degrees that require 2-4 science courses with a laboratory component.

Distance learning has the potential to reach at-risk students who would not otherwise study science and other STEM subjects; such as students with limited transportation and other supportive resources; students with special needs (for example, visual, auditory, and ambulatory needs); students living in remote areas; working students; and students with challenging family obligations. Another of the Institute's goal is to reach out to this at-risk community of students through distance learning workshops and mentoring.

Taking science courses and labs online is a particularly useful way for at-risk students to control their own schedules, focus on the material, and excel with it. Studies have shown that students often get more out of at-home science labs for online science classes and retain the knowledge better because they do all of the work themselves, working at their own pace and taking the time to understand all of the experiments.

A report published by the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) reports that "many educators are finding that online and blended learning are effective ways to reach students who fail one or more courses, become disengaged, or who seek an alternative to traditional education. As online learning moves past the early adopter phase, the growth of online programs focused on at-risk students or credit recovery has redefined how educational technology can be used to address the needs of all students...Online learning offers the advantage of personalization, allowing individualized attention and support when students need it most. It provides the very best educational opportunities to all students, regardless of their zip code, with highly qualified teachers delivering instruction using the Internet and a vast array of digital resources and content."

Program Long-Term Success:

Program Short-Term Success:

Program Success Monitored by:

Program Success Examples:

Funding Needs

The Institute is now in the process of seeking funding for our first active year of programming (2012) for both teacher and student workshops in the amount of \$51,330. (Low program costs are due to having an all-volunteer workshop teaching and facilitation staff.)

We are also seeking funding for administration staff salary (for the overall nonprofit startup, organization, development, as well as program administration) in the amount of \$42,000 for the second half of 2012. (One donor has already provided \$30,000 for this staff position for the first half of 2012.)

The Institute is also in the process of board recruitment, interviews, and expansion. Starting in April of 2012, the expanded Board of Directors will work to develop a budget for an expanded and interactive website that enhances our ability to fulfill our mission to promote science literacy through distance learning. The rough estimate for the cost of that website upgrade is between \$7,000 and \$30,000, depending on hours needed. Since this upgraded website and the related online collaboration tools are vital to fulfilling our mission, it is another pressing funding need we would like help with.

Volunteer Needs

The Institute has a network of educational collaborators at the secondary and post-secondary levels who will volunteer to teach and facilitate our workshops as well as mentor both teachers and students.

Request for In-Kind Contributions

Organizational Statistics

Number of Full-Time Employees: 2
Number of Part-Time Employees: 0
Number of Volunteers: 10

Chief Executive

Ms. Sean Keefe

Term:

Since Jan 2012

Board Chair

Dr. Peter Jeschofnig

Term:

Since Jan 2009

Institution Affiliation:

Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education

Board of Directors

Name	Institution Affiliation
Dr. Peter Jeschofnig	Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education
Ms. Sean Keefe	Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education
Dr. Robert Wang	Colorado Mountain College

Officers for Fiscal Year

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News

Kick-off Meeting!

March 24, 2012

The Institute for Excellence in Distance Science Education will hold its official Kick-off meeting on Saturday, March 24 at the Denver Public Library in the 5th floor Gates Room. The purpose of this invitation-only meeting is to introduce guests to our non-profit Institute and bring them together with other leaders in the educational community to discuss ideas about science literacy and distance learning as they relate to the Institute's future. The main goal of this presentation and discussion is to meet like-minded people to see how their interest and experience may form the basis of a collaborative relationship, including board service, and community partnership.