



INSIGHT

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Special Features

- . Welcome to Insight!
- . Close-up on Distance Learning
- . Is the Past in Your Future?

Regular Features

- . Flashback Then & Now
- . Research Factoid
- . Fast FAQs
- . Web Sightings

Welcome to the Opening Issue of INSIGHT !

Welcome to the opening issue of *Insight*, a newsletter dedicated to sharing institutional research reports and information college-wide. *Insight* is sponsored by the Institutional Research (IR) Committee, which is charged with coordinating, conducting, analyzing and monitoring follow-up of institutional research. *Insight* also provides a means for IR documentation and historical reference. *Insight* is scheduled for official publication three times a year and will include feature articles, statistical highlights from the previous terms and research updates.

CLOSE-UP ON DISTANCE LEARNING

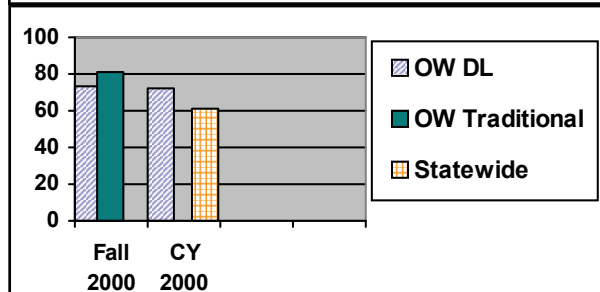
OWCC's Distance Learning Program from a Research Perspective

The OWCC Distance Learning Program began in 1995 with six sections and fewer than 50 students. As of the spring 2001 semester, the program has grown by a factor of 35, to over 1,800 students and 76 sections. This popular instructional format has attracted enrollment sufficient to make it the largest in the state, followed closely by the program at Brevard Community College. Per the latest student demographics compiled by the Distance Learning Office, the typical OW distance learning student is a female, Caucasian, part-time student, who is married with children and working full time; she owns a computer and is enrolled in distance classes because of work-based schedule conflicts. She and all but 8% of her distance learning peers are also enrolled in traditional college classes and she stands a 157% better chance of successfully completing the course if she attended the distance learning orientation session.

This typical student enjoys a program which boasts not only quantity but also quality. The fall 2000 OWCC distance learning success rate of 72% (completion with a grade of "C" or better) beats the statewide distance learning success rate of 61% by a margin of eleven percentage points. If the success rate is recalculated after outstanding "I" grades are completed, it rises to 79%. The DL success rate also compares favorably to the 76% success rate for OWCC's traditional classes.

For supporting data or additional information, call 729-5331 or e-mail to IR@owcc.net.

COMPARISON OF DISTANCE LEARNING SUCCESS RATES



FLASHBACK

THEN & NOW

Credit Student Headcount A Decade Ago		
	Fall 1990	Fall 2000
Total Credit Students	5,615	6,837

RESEARCH FACTOID

Student Enrollment by Location

Reporting Year (RY) 2000-2001



Category	Enrollment	Percent
Niceville	7,969	40
FWB	5,854	29
Eglin	2,052	10
Hurlburt	1,798	9
CNC	1,165	6
Sikes	1,142	6
> Total Duplicated	19,980	100

FAST FAQs

What percent of the Fall 2000 credit-seeking students were first-time-in-college (FTIC)?



Answer: 12% of the credit population.

WEB SIGHTINGS

Research Funding Opportunities

- > Research Grant Writing Basics
www.ed.gov/pubs/KnowAbtGrants
- > U.S. Dept. of Education
www.ed.gov/funding.html
- > American Educational Research Assoc.
www.aera.net/grantsprogram/



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IS THE PAST IN YOUR FUTURE? Raiding the Lost Archives

The Learning Resources Center (LRC) has a little known wealth of historical information on Okaloosa-Walton *Community* College, formerly known as Okaloosa-Walton *Junior* College. This information includes standard materials such as old catalogs, literary magazines, and yearbooks. (Yes, believe it or not, there were OWJC yearbooks published at one time!) There is also a “Book of Firsts”, which chronicles events that were occurring daily at OWJC during the first year the College was in operation. (Do you know what year that was?) There are scrapbooks that date back to the early years and stretch into the mid-70’s with newspaper clippings, miscellaneous documentation, and photographs. There are items given to us by United States Presidents, including a pen that Lyndon Johnson used and a letter that Gerald Ford sent to the graduating class of 1976. There are ribbons that OWJC won at fairs and commendations from both the State of Florida and the United States.

If you are involved in a research effort for which historic information about the College or the local area would be useful, you may wish to visit the LRC Archives. The LRC archival records are housed primarily in the office of Janice Henderson. She can be reached either by e-mail <hendersonj@owcc.net>, direct dial telephone number (729-5764), or OWCC extension (x6764) to arrange a time for materials review. If you are just interested in seeing a few mementoes, try the third floor of the LRC, just outside the staff work area, where there is a display table full of artifacts. Check out the highlight of the display – the Miss OWJC and the Mr. OWCC crowns!

By the way, if you are still wondering, Okaloosa-Walton Junior College (OWJC) opened in 1964 and changed its name to Okaloosa-Walton Community College (OWCC) in 1988.



BRIGHT IDEAS

If you have a newsletter suggestion or a research idea, please contact us at:
<IR@owcc.net> or 729-5331