There is a growing transformation in education, and it’s called distance learning. Distance learning allows you to learn from home, from work, or anywhere else - without commuting. You learn when it's convenient for you.

Today, you can earn just about any degree online (high school, associate, undergraduate, and graduate) from dozens of schools and colleges across the United States. Using the latest technology to help students learn, distance learning stimulates you in ways a simple lecture can’t. It is interactive, engaging and effective. For example, you can pull up a streaming video, sit in a virtual classroom, collaborate on a group project, listen to a podcast, take part in a discussion board or chat group, e-mail your fellow classmates, or instant message your professor.

National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) will be held November 11-15, 2013. NDLW seeks to promote and celebrate the tremendous growth and accomplishments occurring today in distance learning programs offered by schools, businesses, and governmental departments.

Currently, over 3.5 million college students are taking online courses and/or earning online college degrees. At the secondary school level, over 700,000 high school students are taking one or more courses online, and nearly 40 states have established state-wide or state-led virtual schools. Michigan became the first state in 2007 to require high school students take at least one online course for graduation.*

NDLW is an opportunity for educators to showcase their pedagogies and teaching strategies for online learning to peers, students, learning institutions and organizations through webinars, symposiums, forums or social media.

*Source: http://www.usdla.org/ndlw

Quick Facts*

Schools expect the number of online students to grow to over 3.6 million.

40.7% of schools offering online courses agree that “students are at least as satisfied” with their online courses, 56.2% are neutral and only 3.1% disagree.

e-Learning is now estimated to represent about 10% of the overall training and educational market.

* Source: The Sloan Consortium
I had been using ‘modules’, I really see that my online course becomes smoother and easier, in terms of online session management. I feel much appreciative of Angela Solic’s STRONG encouragement for me to use ‘modules’! — Ju Park, School of Education

Overall, the class helped me prepare and think about a lot of topics for translating my face to face class into an online environment. I doubt my first attempts at teaching online would have been as smooth without your class and its guidance.” — Alicia, College of Arts Sciences

Beyond the network of support and learning that this course fosters among colleagues, it also teaches us how to remain connected to an online community of students using a method that is inherently isolating when compared to the face-to-face classroom. This course took off my blinders; now, I feel that I can approach an online course with a broader field of vision.” — Anonymous IUN Faculty

Right now, I am face-to-face. I do not see that changing anytime soon. However, I see many areas that I can enhance my course...stretch the boundaries......use technology so it does not get ‘predictable’ and ‘boring’......new ways to engage the students and shape their learning. I am refreshed as an instructor (which I needed!), and I am looking forward to this next semester with new enthusiasm.” — Anonymous IUN Faculty