

# Distance Learning Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

## December 8, 2005

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### Members in Attendance:

Rodney Curry, Arkansas Telecommunications Association (SBC)  
Karen Ghidotti, Arkansas Virtual School - K12  
Sandra Hardage, Arkansas Educational Service Cooperatives (Dawson)  
Belinda Kittrell, Arkansas Department of Education  
Drew Mashburn, Office of Information Technology  
Dr. Gail McClure, Arkansas Science & Technology Authority  
Robert Mouser, Telecommunications Association (Ritter Communications)  
Chris Robbins, Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts  
Kathleen Stafford, Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN)

### Members Absent:

Nancy Sparks, Department of Workforce Education  
Karen Wheeler, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

### Visitors:

Wilma Toombs- ADE  
Mike Lar and Shirley Pickle – ADEDLC  
Jim Boardman - ADE

### AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Distance Learning Coordinating Council Purpose
  - Presenter: James Boardman
  - Overview of Arkansas Distance Learning
    1. Current and Future Infrastructure
      - Presenter: Max Kolstad, Department of Information Services
    2. Distance Learning Hardware and Software
    3. Distance Learning Content
    4. Distance Learning Professional Development
- Distance Learning Coordinating Council Tasks
- Adjournment

The first meeting of the Arkansas Distance Learning Coordinating Council was at 9:00 am on December 8, 2005 at the Arkansas Department of Education Distance Learning Center in Maumelle, Arkansas. Each Council member present was given a folder containing the agenda, the legislation creating the Council, distance learning rules, and additional information on distance learning organizations across the state. The Council followed the agenda during the meeting.

James Boardman, Assistant Commissioner for Research and Technology provided a welcome, introductions and gave the purpose of the council. Mr. Boardman talked about the eight aspects of the legislation and provided his thoughts on the growth and usage of distance learning.

Max Kolstad from the Arkansas Department of Information Systems provided an overview of the technology infrastructure. Mr. Kolstad provided a historical perspective of the network. He also talked about the implementation of the new distance learning network and improvements to the APSCN network and a glimpse into future network growth and usage.

Belinda Kittrell, provided an overview of hardware, software and peripherals used in distance learning programs.

Karen Ghidotti, Sandra Hardage, Chris Robbins, Mike Lar and Belinda Kittrell provided an overview of current content providers in the state and contact information for those resources.

Sandra Hardage, Belinda Kittrell, and Chris Robbins provided details on how distance learning is being used to provide professional staff development.

The Coordinating Council voted to establish a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary /Treasurer per legislation.

Rodney Curry nominated Karen Ghidotti for Chair. Chris Robbins seconded the motion. Ms. Ghidotti was unanimously voted as Chair.

Karen Ghidotti nominated Belinda Kittrell as Vice Chair and Sandra Hardage seconded the motion. Ms. Kittrell was unanimously voted as Vice Chair.

Belinda Kittrell nominated Sandra Hardage as Secretary/Treasurer of the council and the motion Karen Ghidotti seconded it. Ms. Hardage was unanimously voted as Secretary/Treasurer.

Ms Ghidotti, then took over the meeting and the next two meeting dates were established.

February 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. –1:00 pm at the Arkansas Department of Education Distance Learning Center.

April 6, 2006 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm site to be determined at the February meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved on February 14, 2006