“Vines and Wines: An International Internet Project Comparing the Grape Industries of Central California with those of Mendoza Province, Argentina and Yunnan Province, China”

Project Description:

Vines and Wines (VW) is a unique, experimental, international Internet project funded by the California State University Commission on the Extended University and the California Agricultural Technology Institute. It is being conducted jointly by the Office of Extended Education and the Viticulture and Enology Research Institute at California State University, Fresno.

Vines and Wines grew out of needs identified in faculty discussions, a series of community planning meetings in central valley communities, and discussions with extended education and on-line learning professionals.

Vines to Wine is testing the feasibility of offering both traditional and extended education opportunities to many new audiences, particularly international students, who could avail themselves of a broad range of special offerings after this pilot is developed.

The grape industries of central California, Yunnan, China and Mendoza, Argentina will provide the axis around which the content will revolve. We selected this topic because of the expertise available on at Fresno State, which is home to the Viticulture and Enology Research Center (VERC). We selected the other sites because of the campus’ recent initiatives to expand collaborative relationships with institutions in China and Argentina. Special emphasis will be given to attracting students via on-line courses prior to having them enroll in traditional classes.

Key Fresno State personnel include:

Dr. Thomas McClanahan, Associate Vice President for Grants and Research
Dr. Audrey Anderson, Dean of Extended Education
Ms. Hye Ok Park, Director of the Digital Campus
Key off-campus personnel include:

Ms. Alicia Marconi de Garcia, Head of the English Department at Colegio Las Candelas, Mendoza Argentina
Ms. Huiyun Cheng, Dean of Studies at Yunnan University Secondary School, Kunming, China

The project will be implemented through the cooperative efforts of several Fresno State entities. Extended Education professionals, viticulture and enology faculty (at CSU Fresno and in China and Argentina) will team with researchers, educators and students in these countries to insure that a broad cross section of participants receive practical knowledge of how this type of offering can work. Chinese partners include Yunnan University, Yunnan Agricultural University, the Yunnan University Secondary School, and the Yunnan Highland Grape Production and Development Company. Argentine partners include the Colegio Las Candelas and the Universidad de Cuyo.

The project will impact a wide array of distance education courses offered by Fresno State through its growing Digital Campus program. In particular, it will enhance the university’s ability to provide these courses through the Office of Extended Education to international students and to teachers, but it will also extend the university’s outreach to traditional students through extended education offerings.