Teaching Music Over A Videoconference System

SITE Proposal - Paper ID: 3905
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Abstract: The island of Hawaii has many potential students spread over a large geographic area. Recent technology advances have come together to provide solutions for bridging the distances involved for rural Hawaiians. A new gigabit fiber, H.323 videoconferencing, WebCT, cable modems, and MP3 files bring a college music course to underserved students.

A new music course is being offered by Hawaii Community College that incorporates several new technologies. The presentation will show how the class is being taught using H.323 videoconferencing equipment (Polycom FX Viewstation), and by incorporating the WebCT course management software and MP3 files.

The island of Hawaii has a population of 148,677 people spread over 4,000 square miles, and it takes 5 hours to traverse the populated areas by car round trip. The two main cities, Hilo (40,759) and Kailua-Kona (9,870) each have a HawCC campus, but perhaps half the island's population live over an hour away from these two sites. A federal grant provided the funds to initiate two additional sites (Kamuela and Kau') connected by vidcon to Kona and Hilo. Initially the system used dedicated phone lines for connectivity (ISDN inverse multiplexers and T1 PRI). Courses in Hawaiian language and culture, hospitality, accounting, history, math, and philosophy have also been taught over the system.

The new music class, Introduction to Jazz, incorporates WebCT and other web resources into the instruction sequence. Course materials are made available via the Web and are presented in class using the Viewstation PowerPoint and SNAP capabilities. Music examples are incorporated by using MP3 files, the University of Hawaii Real Server, and the Archos MP3 pocket recorder. The presentation will show how these technologies are being used and will reflect upon future possibilities in this area.

Further details of the project will be posted at: www.indiana.edu/~midi/SITE