

EDC Grant Interim Update (February 27, 2010)

Building the Canadian Statistics Educator Network

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Project Objectives:

Upon completion of this project, the Canadian Statistics Educator Network (CSEN) will be fully functional and active. The expectation is that the CSEN will enhance statistics educational development practice at local, provincial and national levels by:

- fostering a sense of community among Canadian statistics educators,
- facilitating collaboration among statistics faculty from different departments and institutions, encouraging critical reflection on teaching and discussions around curriculum which will hopefully lead to improved teaching,
- increasing awareness of the EDC among practitioners and supporting educational development activity within statistics,
- promoting scholarly teaching by delving into the statistics education literature with others,
- encouraging collaborations in statistics education research and therefore, SoTL.

Work Completed To Date:

1. Needs-assessment Survey

- Research Ethics contacted regarding needs-assessment survey
- Graduate student assistant (funded by Department) helped design survey questions
- Survey set up in Smart Survey (<http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/>)
- Invitation to participate emailed to statistics educators in Canadian post-secondary institutions and to all Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) members on the SSC discussion list.
- Responses are coming in now. Feedback has been generally very positive.

2. CSEN Environment

- Undeveloped WebCT site set up for CSEN
- ITS development of dynamic enrollment software is nearing completion
- Graduate student assistant (funded by Department) continued literature review on the implementation of online communities of practice

Next Steps

- Summarize survey results and use to inform development of WebCT site
- Plan and work with a student assistant and/or Western's Instructional Technology Support Centre to program WebCT environment based on needs-assessment results (CSEN should be ready for people to join early in May)
- Design information website to introduce the CSEN and link to the enrollment software
- Notify Canadian statistics educators when the CSEN is complete and send invitations to join via email, contacting appropriate departments, etc.
- Will present the CSEN in an invited session on statistics education at the Statistical Society of Canada 2010 Annual Meeting in Québec City