

## **Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA)**

Demand for DELTA's services in support of teaching and learning with technology again continued on a strong growth trajectory for 2007-08. Utilization of the Vista learning management system increased by 35% over the previous year. Overall participation in DELTA training programs increased 52%. DELTA began efforts in compact plan initiative for Large Course Redesign by providing some initial financial and staffing resources toward the redesign of selected high-needs courses in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Engineering. DELTA has been exploring the use of 3D online environments for teaching and learning, including a "virtual laboratory" for plant disease diagnosis developed for Dr. David Shew's *Principles of Plant Pathology* course.

Distance education activity increased by 18% in 2007-08, with 53,070 student credit hours delivered. Two new Master's programs were launched: MS in Aerospace Engineering and Master of Computer Science. An initiative was launched to participate in the Youth Offender Program, offering NC State courses to qualified prison inmates. DELTA's compact plan included a DE student retention study to encourage a diverse student population through the identification and mitigation of obstacles to successful course completion; a final report is in progress. Advanced educational opportunities were delivered to the Rocky Mount region via the Gateway Technology Center, including NC Teach and Master of School Administration cohorts, engineering and math summer camps.

Mr. Lou Harrison served as registration chair for the DUX 2007 conference, and participated in the Center for Creative Leadership's Leadership Development Program. Mr. Tony Pearson participated in the NC State Performance Leadership Program, and was a university-wide Awards for Excellence recipient. Dr. Donna Petherbridge participated in the NC State Performance Leadership Program. Ms. Kay Zimmerman received the NCDLA Award for 21st Century Best Practice as the project manager for The University of North Carolina Online project, and has been elected 2008-09 President of NCDLA. Dr. Tom Miller received the US Distance Learning Association award for Outstanding Leadership in the field of Distance Learning.