

FOUR CORNERS VIRTUAL RESOURCE CENTER

A CDE, CARE/Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Service
through the Unlimited Learning Adult Education Program

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Tech Beat

Technology with a heartbeat

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Learning Online: What's Not to Like!

You can learn when and where you want, and if a Cappuccino is your thing, bring it to "class" and put up your feet. No one is going to tell you to show up at 8 am, or not to stand and walk, or to wait until the break for you gum or cigarette. It's your place and the instruction comes to you! Can you beat that?



OK. So some of you like to see that instructor and watch the reaction of your peers as class progresses. Do you need to learn that way, or have you adopted that preference over years in classrooms where you succeeded in picking up the tricks of the trade? Nothing like success!

If you are limited to learning onsite, you need to find places and times to remain a lifelong learner. Whatever it takes. However, if you are able to migrate to other ways of learning, I strongly encourage you to try online learning. You may not see the instructor, but you can dialogue with that person in many other ways. I've gotten to know my online instructors much more quickly and better than I ever did in those endless lecture classes where I had sight contact. How often have you gotten to know your peers in a class? Online learning puts you directly in their homes and often in their hearts. The dialogue is unbelievable and of a much higher quality than I've ever been able to achieve in my onsite classroom.

So what's *not* to like? You have machines working for you, and machines break down. You depend on digital document transfers and connectivity, and your work gets lost sometimes. That's sort of like having the dog chew up your homework! You don't have the benefit of seeing expressions on people's faces, so you may misinterpret what someone says. So learn netiquette and forgive those who may not apply it fully. Pick up the habit of backing everything up. And forgive your hard-working computer when it hiccups or has a virus. Do your work early and back it up. No prob! You'll find that good online instructors are used to the problems you may encounter and will work with you until the problem is resolved!

Who wins when you learn to teach or learn online? You do. Your students do. It's a win-win situation.

Featured Thoughts: Marc Prensky

Marc Prensky is an internationally acclaimed speaker, writer, consultant, and designer in the critical areas of education and learning. He is the author of [Digital Game-Based Learning](#) (McGraw-Hill, 2001), the founder and CEO of [Games2train](#) (whose clients include IBM, Nokia, Pfizer, and the US Department of Defense). His article, *Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants*, addresses the reality we educators are facing: "Our students have changed radically. Today's students are not longer the people our educational system was designed to teach." If you want to read the whole article to launch your commitment to teaching and learning in new ways, go to <http://www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky%20-%20Digital%20Natives.%20Digital%20Immigrants%20-%20Part1.pdf>.

CCOnline Classes about to Start!

Most CCCOnline classes start on August 29. I'll be teaching EDU 132 and have just completed the faculty training to become a CCCOnline instructor. I appreciated the high standards applied to offer quality online instruction. I encourage you to visit the CCCOnline and explore the options. Then sign up and enjoy the experience, and if you are in an AEFL program, it comes at no cost to you! What a deal.

EDU 131	Introduction to Adult Education	3 credit hours
EDU 132	Planning, Organizing & Delivering Adult Education	3 credit hours
EDU 133	Adult Basic/Adult Secondary Education	3 credit hours
EDU 134	Teaching English as a Second Language to Adult Learners	3 credit hours
EDU 135	Family Literacy in Adult Education	3 credit hours

e-colorado.org

The e-Colorado Portal is in the process of developing enormous resources for Colorado adult educators. Start getting familiar with what the site offers as you wait for training on how to use and contribute to different resources. Go to <http://www.e-colorado.org/> and enjoy the professional environment designed for you!