Elluminate Delivers Real-time Interaction and Collaboration to New York Institute of Technology and New York State Teacher Centers

What NYIT and NYS Teacher Centers achieved with Elluminate *Live!*

Increased interaction for students and teachers

Elluminate *Live!* enables both organizations to take communication, interaction, and collaboration to the next level—without a long learning curve.

Enhanced creativity for instructors

With Elluminate *Live!*, instructors can concentrate on content and outcomes rather than the technology used—unleashing the creativity that today's teachers share.

Flexible, multi-purpose tools that fit the intent of each session

Elluminate *Live!* provides a dynamic environment that adapts to the unique needs of each organization—for eLearning and Web conferencing.

Professor Stan Silverman is an extremely busy man. As Director of the Technology-Based Learning Systems Department of New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) and Technology Chair for the New York State (NYS) Teacher Centers, Silverman leads the team responsible for identifying, investigating, and implementing emerging technologies -- including online learning -- for the two organizations.

The Challenge: Two Organizations with Single Need for Enhanced Communication

Founded in 1955, NYIT's mission is to provide career-focused education, offer access to opportunity, enhance learning through technology, and encourage applications-oriented research. According to Silverman, the school is also a leader in online education. "Having offered college degrees in an online environment for almost 20 years, we began looking for a way to make the connection between instructors and students more intimate, and to provide a platform that engages students in the learning process," he explained.

Also, Silverman was interested in enhancing student/mentor relationships in a "drive-by education" environment. "Because NYIT is largely a commuter school and many of our 12,000 students work full-time, we needed to find creative ways to support a meaningful connection between mentors and students."

At the same time, Silverman was looking to deliver online courses for the NYS Teacher Centers, which comprises 427 sites that provide professional development for 239,000 teachers throughout the state. "Like any organization, we have turnover," he said. "We needed a means of providing mentoring for center directors, and delivering online courses to train them on the technology they need to handle their official reporting responsibilities." Silverman also wanted to offer students support with standardized tests and advanced placement courses, and find an interactive tool that would work with existing video conferencing.

The Solution: Reliable, Easy-to-use Tool for eLearning and Web Conferencing

Silverman's Technology Committee, made up of 18 representatives from throughout New York State, surveyed available products. The team's requirements included Internet-based and server-based technology, ease of use, multi-platform support, and a suite of tools, including audio, whiteboard, dynamic application sharing, and record/playback. The solution for both organizations was Elluminate *Live!* Academic Edition™.

What makes Elluminate *Live!* the clear choice for live eLearning?

- Crystal-clear audio over the Internet

- Intuitive interface that's easy to use and customize

- In-sync communications, regardless of connection speed and quality

- Universal operation in Windows, Mac, and Solaris environments

- ESP Moderator Tool Set ensures best-user experience

- Significant reductions in travel budgets

- No more costly, inconvenient conference calls

- Best-in-class return on investment with no per-minute charges

- Accessible, responsive customer service

"One of the most important reasons for selecting Elluminate *Live!* is its short learning curve," explained Silverman. "Many good technology products have a mountain to get over to learn how to use them; not with Elluminate."

For his proof-of-concept project, Silverman used Elluminate *Live!* with students in his "Instructional Applications of Networks" class.

"My students loved it," said Silverman. "I'm known as an interactive instructor, and with Elluminate *Live!*, I can take interactivity to a whole new level." He also tested the product for reliability, system connectivity, and ease of use. The next step was to demo Elluminate *Live!* to other potential users, and hold faculty workshops.

"We are training our chairs, faculty, and moderators on how to create a hybrid environment using video conferencing and Elluminate *Live!*," Silverman said. "With Elluminate *Live!*, local and remote participants around the state can share information, such as PowerPoint slides, and interact with the material. It creates a true feeling of being together in the space, and even enables those without video conferencing to participate as well."

The Result: Increased Interaction, Enhanced Creativity, Flexible Toolkit

In just months, Elluminate *Live!* has become one of the most useful and popular tools for both NYIT and NYS Teacher Centers. "My folks are thrilled," reported Silverman. "As usage builds, we're getting requests to add more seats.

"For NYS Teacher Centers, we've found Elluminate *Live!* to be the perfect environment to offer both technological and emotional support to our instructors," Silverman said. "We're like the Johnny Appleseed of teaching; we're sowing the seeds. Our teachers – through need and creativity -- make the seeds sprout because they are concentrating on outcomes, not technology. I believe Elluminate *Live!* will generate hundreds of ideas that we can't even envision now, feeding the creative spark that today's teachers share.

"Elluminate *Live!* is transparent, malleable, and multi-purpose allowing us to fit the intent of each session," said Silverman. "At NYIT, we use it for classes, mentoring, and tutorials for application training. Because Elluminate *Live!* provides flexibility we are also using it to help students who are having trouble with course content."

Silverman added: "I really like the folks I've met through the Elluminate online community. They make an effort to provide top-quality technical and application support, bringing people with like interests together to share ideas.

"I should know - I have an attention span of about 32 seconds," he joked, "but I've sat through entire Elluminate sessions totally engaged."

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