

My (Gail Stringer) observations on the Indian River Community College Visit.

I observed an intermediate algebra class in session being taught by one of the new faculty members and using the Hawkes Learning Systems. The classroom contained computers on three walls of the classroom with tables in the middle of the room where students would sit for instruction from the instructor. The room was equipped with a Smart Board and the instructor used the Hawkes Learning System during her lecture time of the course. After presenting the concepts, the students were allowed to work on the computers to work on concepts presented by the instructor. I found the students engaged and interested in the class. I was very impressed with faculty and student enthusiasm concerning the learning system being used.

I visited with the division chair of the mathematics department. We spent the rest of the morning discussing departmental issues of the impact of innovative teaching techniques and the use of technology in the classroom. New faculty are expected to use technology in the classroom and many of the new faculty have designed several learning modules and web-sites that students have access to.

I visited an ITV Business Calculus course. I was real impressed with their ITV department and the set-up of the ITV room. The room had long tables beginning at the front of the room going to the back of the room. Placed on each wall at the end of the row was a TV monitor at the first row and at the row half-way back in the room. The instructor was in front able to sit at the lectern, which was raised above the students in order to see all students in the room. The document camera was in the ceiling above the instructor thus she could face the students and write in a comfortable manner. She also had a TV monitor that displayed all students at all four outside sites. She was able to have a visual view of all students at the same time. She had the students engaged and responsive to questions from all sites. Of course, the site where she was at did have more response than the other sites but she was very good at pulling the students from the other sites into the discussion. In viewing behind the scene after visiting the class, I was very impressed at the outside sites, when the instructor was writing her examples, there was a little box at the lower right hand corner of the screen that students could still observe her

speaking as she was writing. I felt this had to give students a better feeling of contact with the instructor than just hearing the instructor talk and write.

With the faculty I spoke with, I was very impressed of their praise of the technical support they received to help them incorporate technology into the classroom whether in blended form or as an online course. I was very impressed at the talk of planning that goes into every new venture that is tried as evidenced by the committee meeting we attended and informal conversations with the faculty I met. I felt the environment and expectations of the college provided an inspirational and challenging place to work.