

**STATE “E-LEARNING” SURVEY:**

*Please complete & faxback only this page immediately, to:*

*Attention – Chris Thompson*

*Fax: (202) 624-5313*

**Conducted by:**

**National Governors’ Association  
Center for Best Practices**

*Governor’s designated completer of survey for  
general governmental and regulatory questions:*

**Name:** Kelly Riley  
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**Organization:** Office of the Governor  
**State:** Mississippi  
**Phone:** 601-359-2528\_  
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*Governor’s designated completer of survey for  
post-secondary education and work-based  
training questions:*

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**Please complete and return this section on general *governmental and regulatory* aspects of e-learning, by *April 19*, to:**

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**or download the electronic version from  
<http://www.nga.org/workforce/CTALsurvey.htm>,  
enter your answers on the screen, and email it back as an attachment  
to:**

**[cthompson@nga.org](mailto:cthompson@nga.org)**

***Thanks!***

***Name of person completing this section of the  
survey:***

**Name: Ronald Marcy**

**Title: State Director of Distance  
Education**

**Organization: State Board for Community and  
Junior Colleges**

**State: Mississippi**

**Phone: 601-432-6518**

**Fax: 601-432-6363**

**E-mail: [rmarcy@sbcjc.cc.ms.us](mailto:rmarcy@sbcjc.cc.ms.us)**

# THE STATE “E-LEARNING” SURVEY

## ***Background:***

The NGA Center for Best Practices and the American Society for Training and Development recently convened a *Commission on Technology and Adult Learning* to provide their respective members with an outside perspective on technology and work-related adult learning for the new digital economy. The commission will: describe the current and emerging terrain of e-learning in public and private postsecondary education and training; identify public and private sector best practices for promoting the effective use of technology for work-related adult learning; identify key issues of policy and practice that need to be addressed in order that the opportunities offered can be realized; and make recommendations for how this can be accomplished in both the public and private sectors. The commission is co-chaired by former Governor Stephen Merrill (NH), and Motorola University President William A. Wiggernhorn, and is composed of leaders from business, labor, technology, post-secondary education, and state and federal governments.

## ***What is work-related “e-learning” for adults?***

We use the term “e-learning” here as shorthand for “technology-assisted training and post-secondary education to equip workers for jobs in the new digital economy”. This world of e-learning includes a variety of strategies, methods, and media, such as: distance learning, video-conferencing, computer-based instruction, satellite downlinks, computerized diagnostic assessment and evaluation, certifications of competency, virtual educational networks, corporate universities, group-based and project-based learning technologies, and so on.

## ***Purpose of Survey and uses of the information you provide:***

The purpose of this survey is to identify current state policies, initiatives, and practices related to “e-learning” for adults, and to identify contacts. The information you provide will be used to follow up later on individual items with the persons you list. The commission will highlight state best practices in its report, scheduled for completion in January 2001. There will be no attempt to “rank” states against each other. Note that when we ask whether your state “has” a policy or initiative, we are asking if your state *already* has the item or if you have a definite plan to implement it *within the next 12 months*. For this survey, we are focusing on public and private *post-secondary* education and work-related training, and on *adult learners*, rather than on K-12 education.

**General governmental and regulatory questions:**

1. If your state has a *coordinating body or bodies* whose mission is the coordination of e-learning services across post-secondary education:

*What is/are the names of these bodies?*     **The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges**

*What are their website addresses?*

<http://www.sbcjc.cc.ms.us>

*Who should we contact for further information?*

**Ronald Marcy, 601-432-6518**

2. If your *Governor's office or cabinet* has a general “*education technology policy*” advisor, or “*e-learning czar*”,

*What is this person's name?*

**-NA-**

3. Do you have any *public-private partnerships* focused on e-learning for adults?

**NO**

*What are the names of these partnerships?*

**-NA-**

*What role do they play?*

**-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information*

**-NA-**

4. Has your state examined *inter-state issues* around *accrediting and regulation* of e-learning providers?

**YES**

*Are there policy papers or background studies available?* **Yes (faxed)**

*Where can we find a copy on the web?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy**

**(ph) 601-432-6518**

5. Has your state examined *electronic privacy rights* as they relate to e-learning and distance education?

**YES – All Community and Junior Colleges follow guidelines based on the Buckley amendment concerning students' rights.**

*Are there state policies in place that deal with this?* **These are under development.**

*Are there policy papers or background studies available?* **-NA-**

*Where can we find a copy on the web?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy**

**(ph) 601-432-6518**

6. Has your state examined *intellectual property rights* as they relate to e-learning and distance education?

**YES**

*Are there state policies in place that deal with this?* **All Community and Junior Colleges follow the statement of the Digital Millennium Act.**

*Are there policy papers or background studies available?* **-NA-**

*Where can we find a copy on the web?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy**

**(ph) 601-432-6518**

7. What, in your opinion, are the *three main challenges for governmental and regulatory areas* that *you* perceive, in trying to implement e-learning policy and initiatives for adults within your state?

- (i) Maintaining course quality.**
- (ii) Providing access**
- (iii) Promotional opportunities**

8. What could the Commission focus on, that would be most helpful to you in addressing these issues in your state?

- (i) Providing resources to assist in breaching the digital divide.**
- (ii) Assisting in making the public aware of e-education.**
- (i) Assisting in training faculty to provide an even higher quality of education.**
- (ii) Assisting in providing a broader selection of workforce offerings by e-learning.**

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*Name of person completing this section of the survey:*

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**Organization:** State Board for Community and Junior Colleges  
**State:** Mississippi  
**Phone:** 601-432-6518  
**Fax:** 601-432-6363  
**E-mail:** [rmarcy@sbcjc.cc.ms.us](mailto:rmarcy@sbcjc.cc.ms.us)

*Name of person completing this section of the survey:*

**Name:** Thomas D. Layzell  
**Title:** Commissioner of Higher Education  
**Organization:** Institutions of Higher Learning  
**State:** Mississippi  
**Phone:** 601-432-6623  
**Fax:** 601-432-6972  
**E-mail:** [layzell@ihl.state.ms.us](mailto:layzell@ihl.state.ms.us)



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### ***Purpose of Survey and uses of the information you provide:***

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**Post-secondary education and work-related training questions:**

1. Are your state's regular *post-secondary education grants, loans, and scholarships* available to individuals to pay for distance education courses and e-learning courses?

**YES (Marcy)**

*What are the names of these mechanisms?* **State scholarships, MPACT, MTAG, HELP, Merit e-scholars**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Peggy Sledge, Director of State Student Financial Aid, 601-432-6664**

2. Does your state offer *other incentives*, such as tax deductions, to encourage individuals to take specific advantage of post-secondary e-learning opportunities?

**NO**

*What are the names of these incentives?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **-NA-**

3. Does your state offer incentives, such as tax deductions and grants, to encourage *businesses* to take advantage of specifically e-learning opportunities for their workforce?

**NO**

*What are the names of these incentives?* **-NA-**

*Where can we find them on the web?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **-NA-**

4. Does your state offer incentives, such as *competitive grants*, beyond general or formula-based assistance, to encourage your public post-secondary education institutions to take advantage of e-learning techniques and delivery mechanisms?

**YES (Marcy)**

*What is the name of this initiative?* **Incentive pay for the development of “core” courses for the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MVCC)**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald Marcy**

**(ph) 601-432-6518**

5. Do you have specific ways of bringing e-learning tools and services to the “*digitally underserved adults*” (e.g. minorities, rural populations, older returning adult students and seniors, or those lacking basic literacy skills)?

**NO**

*What are the names of these initiatives?* **-NA-**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **-NA-**

6. If your state has a “Skill Standards Board” or other entity that identifies workforce competencies:

*What is the name of this entity?* **Mississippi State Skill Standards Partnership (Marcy)**

*What is its website address?* [bbtravis@metamall.com](mailto:bbtravis@metamall.com) (e-mail)

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Barbara Travis**

**(ph) 601-932-9090**

7. Do any of your public post-secondary institutions award *competency-based credentials* not tied to specific course participation?

**NO**

*What are the names of those that do?* -NA-

*Who should we contact for further information?* -NA-

8. Does your state's higher education governing Board or regulatory agency have ways of recognizing and accrediting *e-learning institutions and online education and training providers*?

**NO**

*What is the name of this agency?* -NA-

*What is its website address?* -NA-

*Who should we contact for further information?* -NA-

9. Are you funding *physical telecommunications infrastructure upgrades* in public post-secondary education institutions, beyond general or formula-based assistance?

**YES (Marcy)**

*What is the name of this initiative?* **The State Bond administered by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, 601-432-6518**

**YES (Layzell)**

*What is the name of this initiative?* **State Data and Video Backbones**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **David Litchliter, Executive Director, Department of Information Technology Services, 601-359-1395**

10. Are you funding the development and upgrading of *e-learning skills of educators* in post-secondary education, beyond general assistance?

**YES (Marcy)**

*What is the name of this initiative?* **Blackboard training for the Mississippi Virtual Community College, Recognizing Learning Styles in E-learning, and Development of online courses**

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy, (ph) 601-432-6518**

11. If there is a “*virtual university / virtual community college*” system linking your public post-secondary institutions:

*What is the name of this virtual system?* **The Mississippi Virtual Community College**

*What is its website address?* <http://www.msvcc.org>

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy, (ph) 601-432-6518**

12. Do you have *digital libraries* where the majority of content is in electronic form, or any other *digital content initiatives*, to support e-learning?

**YES (Marcy)**

*What is the name of the digital library/content initiative?* **MELO – The Mississippi Electronic Library Online**

*What is its website address?* <http://www.msvcc.org>

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Ronald M. Marcy, (ph) 601-432-6518**

**YES (Layzell)**

*What is the name of the digital library/content initiative?* **Mississippi Alliance for Gaining New Opportunities through Library Information Access (MAGNOLIA)**

*What is its website address?* <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~magnolia/magnolia.html>

*Who should we contact for further information?* **Francis Coleman, Dean of Libraries, Mississippi State University, 662-325-7661**

13. What, in your opinion, are the *three main challenges for post-secondary education and work-related training systems* that you perceive, in trying to implement e-learning policy and initiatives for adults within your state?

**Marcy:**

- (i) Maintaining course quality.**
- (ii) Providing access**
- (iii) Promotional opportunities**

**Layzell:**

- (i) Organizational structure**
- (ii) Funding**
- (iii) Perceived demand**

14. What could the Commission focus on, that would be most helpful to you in addressing these issues in your state?

**Marcy:**

- (i) Providing resources to assist in breaching the digital divide.**
- (ii) Assisting in making the public aware of e-education.**
- (iii) Assisting in training faculty to provide an even higher quality of education.**
- (iv) Assisting in providing a broader selection of workforce offerings by e-learning**

**Layzell:**

- (i) Effective models**
- (ii) Promising practices**
- (iii) Increase awareness of political leaders**