

Borderless Education: International Promise & Challenge Charles Davis (Guatemala 2006)

Biography

Dr. Davis is Professor of Management at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. He is an authority on the use of information technology in business and has held positions with several leading industrial firms including Deloitte & Touche, Pullman Incorporated, Occidental Petroleum, Chase Manhattan Bank, and IBM. Dr. Davis received his Ph.D. from the University of Houston, an MBA from Columbia University, an MAT from Harvard University, and a BS from Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Davis is author of numerous articles dealing with the management of information technologies. He has also served as a member of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Technical Committee on Data Communications (Washington DC) and as International Director of Research for the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. He currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Fulbright Association's Houston & SE Texas Chapter. In the summer of 2005, Dr. Davis taught seminars on teaching over the Internet at the Universidad Tecnologica de Panama. In 2006, he was designated as a Fellow of the Centre for Information & Knowledge Management at the University of Limerick (Ireland) and also served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

Background

Online education is becoming well established in the United States. Schools such as Harvard, Stanford, the University of Texas, and many other universities are currently offering some degrees online. Such course offerings can only get better as the Internet becomes faster, richer, more ubiquitous, and as it improves with each new generation. As professors create better online content for distance learning curricula and learn to be more effective at delivering that content online, the potential exists for the online technology to reach whole new markets for education worldwide. What impact will this technology have on global issues such as transfer of ideas and culture around the globe, access to educational opportunity in transition countries, and the removal of barriers to exchange of ideas among peoples? This roundtable discussion will provide an opportunity to assess the greater impact of online education in a global context.

Discussions Questions

1. What impact will Internet-based education have on global issues such as transfer of ideas and culture around the world? Will such education homogenize cultures internationally?
2. What are the threats to validity of Internet-based education? I.E., how can consistency be assured? Or, how can course content be controlled? Etc.
3. In what ways does an Internet-based education environment serve as a catalyst for the removal of barriers to the exchange of ideas among peoples? How do communities of common interests fostered through the Internet apply here?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Internet-based education in a global setting? How can the weaknesses be addressed?
5. How will Internet-based education provide greater access to educational opportunity around the world? How can the technical infrastructure be established to achieve increased educational access in lesser developed countries?