

Distance Education for Developing Communities (DE-EDC)



The College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder excels in many areas including distance education, continuing education, service-learning, and telecommunications. By combining these complementary strengths, the College and the University as a whole are developing affordable distance education methods specifically focused on helping individuals in domestic and international developing communities find sustainable solutions to pull themselves out of poverty.



CU-Boulder faculty and students work with in-country collaborators and partner community members to ensure that communities have the knowledge and resources to access vital information, by video and/or audio means, about engineering and current technology, health, agricultural practices, and business practices relevant to their everyday lives.

The goals of the DE-EDC program are:

1. To provide technical knowledge and resources so that people can make informed decisions to implement appropriate solutions to improve their livelihoods themselves – without depending on ongoing outside assistance.
2. To provide access to a variety of information sources so that holistic solutions can be developed for a variety of geographically and socio-economically isolated groups.
3. To enhance the education of CU students so that they are better prepared to work in international settings and are able to translate what they learn inside the classroom into real-world applications.

The DE-EDC program involves several partners working alongside CU-Boulder's EDC. They include the Center for Advanced Engineering and Technology Education (CAETE) and the Office of Independent Learning in the Division of Continuing Education at CU-Boulder, plus faculty from the CU-Denver and Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and their Center for Global Health.

In Iquitos, Peru, the EDC Program is working with Centura Health's Missions and Community Health Program to establish a communication link between a medical clinic in the Amazon jungle and the Clinica Adventista Ana Stahl in Iquitos, Peru. Project design will be guided by WiFi systems currently in operation in the high Amazon region.

Partnerships are also being developed with groups that have already implemented at least some of the in-community infrastructure necessary to start teaching engineering and skills-based courses in audio and/or video formats. For that reason, the DE-EDC design team has already begun researching and reaching-out to

ABOUT EDC

The Engineering for Developing Communities program at the University of Colorado at Boulder educates globally responsible students and professionals who can offer sustainable and appropriate solutions to the endemic problems faced by developing communities worldwide.

EDC presents a unique opportunity for educating a new generation of engineers who can contribute to the relief of the endemic problems faced by developing communities worldwide. The program contributes to meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals and involves all three components of engineering education, research, and development, and outreach/service.

The EDC program at CU Boulder serves as a blueprint for the education of engineers of the 21st century who are called to play a critical role in contributing to peace and security in an increasingly challenged world.

The EDC program is affiliated with Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USA) at CU. Professor Amadei founded EWB-USA as a way to provide the service and outreach components of the EDC program. Read more about the CU-Chapter of EWB-USA on-line at <http://ceae.colorado.edu/ewb>.

potential collaborators that currently work in rural education and universal access initiatives in the US, Peru, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Rwanda.

Radio broadcasts in indigenous languages, internet access, and podcasts are several of the communication methods that the project team is considering.



For more information:

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