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**July 14, 2005**

## **FUTURE OF ONLINE COLLEGE DEGREES DISCUSSED AMONG UNIVERSITY LEADERS AT NECC 2005 CONFERENCE**

**Philadelphia, PA – July 14, 2005** – Drexel University, one of the top 50 private, non-profit, national doctoral/research universities in the U.S., hosted a session at the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) 2005 conference, held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on June 29, titled “Online College Degree Programs: Current and Future Issues.” Dr. Kenneth Hartman, academic director at Drexel eLearning and Dr. William Lynch, director of The Drexel School of Education examined current national, state and local issues, quality control, inter-institutional online collaborations, and future growth in online degree programs among university leaders.

Those who attended the session were interested in developing online courses and looked to Drexel University, a leader in the integration of technology into university settings since first offering online degrees in 1997, to provide guidance to the challenges and obstacles encountered with online learning.

“It is clear that as the field of online learning expands, more research, discussions and collaborations will need to take place among the leaders in the education arena.” said Dr. William Lynch, director of The Drexel School of Education and a pioneer in the field of distance education. “Drexel is pleased to share the knowledge and expertise gained through our years of experience in the online education realm.”

“The expectations and digital experience of tomorrow’s online student will be very different from today’s online student,” said Dr. Hartman, an internationally renowned educator, having served the past 25 years as an associate professor (instructional technology), academic administrator, and consultant at several leading universities. “Colleges must develop and implement a business plan that recognizes and addresses the differences to avoid becoming an online dinosaur, and we all know what happened to them,” Dr. Hartman added.

The NECC conference was presented by the International Society for Technology in Education, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications & Technology. Attendees came from all over the United States and around the globe. They included teachers, administrators, library media specialists, technology coordinators, and teacher educators, as well as representatives from industry

and government.

For further information, contact Dr. Hartman at (215) 895-0501, [kenhatman@drexel.edu](mailto:kenhatman@drexel.edu), or visit [www.drexel.com/neccpr](http://www.drexel.com/neccpr) to view a pdf of the presentation.

### **About Drexel eLearning:**

Drexel e-Learning, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Drexel University, specializing in innovative, Internet-based distance education programs for working professionals and corporations in the US and abroad. A pioneer in online education, Drexel has offered programs online since 1997. For more information, visit [www.drexel.com](http://www.drexel.com).

For more information about Drexel's online Bachelor's, Master's, and Certificate programs, including a Master's in Higher Education program, visit [www.drexel.com](http://www.drexel.com), call toll free (877) 215-0009, or email [info@drexel.com](mailto:info@drexel.com).

### **About Drexel's School of Education**

*U.S. News & World Report* ranks The Drexel School of Education among America's Best Graduate School in the 2006 edition of its annual rankings. The Drexel School of Education offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in addition to a number of certification programs in K-12 and higher education. It is the home of the award-winning Math Forum @ Drexel, and the Drexel Center for the Prevention of School Violence. For more information, visit [www.drexel.edu/soe](http://www.drexel.edu/soe).

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