

# The Distributed University

*"The administration's goal is to develop a "distributed university" in which classes can be taught via videoconferencing and other means between the three campuses, so the student's location becomes less relevant."*

*Randy Anderson, Director, Network Engineering & Technology  
George Mason University*

As universities recognize the needs of students at remote classrooms to participate with other students and with the professor during a lecture, many find that a scalable, reliable, and low cost interactive video communication solution is necessary.

George Mason University, located in Northern Virginia, looked to NCast Corporation for a campus solution that would enable them to easily send voice and video between campuses to host a seminar, speech, or class at one campus and have it sent directly to the other sites in real-time. For example, a student who lives near the Prince William County campus may find it impractical to attend one or more classes at Arlington, since the travel time can be well over an hour each way.

George Mason has three main campuses in Northern Virginia and is installing an optical fiber network between them to facilitate high-bandwidth data applications. There are also several smaller locations around the area, used for more specialized programs, that would likely benefit from having an option to view presentations or classes given at one of the main campuses. George Mason also has a few professors that are experimenting with distance learning, working with various remote sites.

NCast technology is the interactive solution for distance learning and collaboration, allowing users to multicast high quality video, audio and graphics to a multitude of classrooms and desktops with ease and reliability.

NCast technology's multimedia capabilities allow the combination of a wide variety of video, graphical, and audio sources to create rich program content. The interactive capabilities allow all students to see, be seen, hear, and be heard by all other students and the professor in real-time question/answer or collaborative classrooms.

The multicasting capabilities allow the lecture to be shared with a large number of dispersed locations with significantly less bandwidth than required by other technologies, which means that George Mason University can develop its "distributed university" more easily and cost effectively. □

*George Mason University  
Envisions the  
"Distributed University" Using  
Solutions from  
NCast™  
Corporation*

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