

## Desire2Learn Client Success Story

# SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) was established in 1901 and has two locations with the main campus in Weatherford and a branch campus in Sayre. SWOSU has 15 nationally-accredited academic programs – most among Oklahoma’s regional universities. SWOSU offers over 100 fields of study to approximately 4,700 students on the Weatherford campus and 500 students on the Sayre campus.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University provides educational opportunities in higher education that meet the needs of the state and region, contribute to the educational, economic, and cultural environment, and support scholarly activity.

### **The Challenge**

In the Fall of 2005, the merger announcement of two large eLearning competitors, coupled with the fact that basic systems would no longer be supported or enhanced and would cost substantially more, was enough to cause Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) to consider their options.

### **Desire2Learn Impact**

- 5200 active students
- 255 academic courses
- 167 active instructors

### *The Challenge continued*

The Council of Information Technology (COIT) Directors from state institutions met to discuss evaluating other Learning Management Systems (LMSs) that would more closely align with their online goals and objectives. Six vendors were invited to demonstrate their LMS applications. They were evaluated for academic and communication features, application management, technical specifications, system requirements, cost of licensing, training, and support. Leading candidates were then identified.

A Technology Strategic Planning Committee (TSPC) was established to consider the needs and direction of the University. The decision was based on the results of the vendor analysis, the requirements of the TSPC, and an effort to address the academic support that is needed to provide a high quality teaching and learning environment. Four finalists were invited to demonstrate their product. Desire2Learn Learning Environment was found to satisfy almost all of the features requested while the other systems did not.

*“The robustness of the Desire2Learn system and the enhanced features has resulted in many faculty, who had not previously used a Learning Management System, developing courses online in order to augment their face-to-face courses.”*

Karen Klein | Programmer/Analyst,  
Information Technology Services

### **The Solution**

It was determined by COIT that developing a state-wide consortium would combine resources and be more cost efficient.

Initially, Rose State College (RSC) and SWOSU joined the consortium which then teamed up with OneNet, a Division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education who agreed to provide hosting services for Desire2Learn. The participation of OneNet in the partnership enabled the individual schools to repurpose resources. Working together, OneNet and Desire2Learn began the process of installing the hardware and software in October 2007. Four months later, each school accesses their unique instance of Desire2Learn Learning Environment which resides on a single server located more than 70 miles from the SWOSU campus and 10 miles from the Rose State College campus.

In order to keep the LMS as clean as possible and to start off with fresh content, a decision was made to transfer only those courses that were requested by the instructors from the old LMS into Learning Environment. Newly admitted students in the Student Information System (SIS) are identified through a batch process that runs daily and generates student accounts to be added to Learning Environment. Accounts are created in conjunction with email accounts ensuring the same unique username and default password is issued on both systems.

### **The Results**

Communication to faculty, staff, and students regarding the status of the system migration was relayed via email messages, web site updates and articles in the campus newspaper to help insure their buy-in and cooperation. System Administrator training and Train the Trainer workshops were held early in March 2008, with ongoing training sessions for faculty and student access began with the Summer semester in June 2008. Documentation was published and electronically posted for both faculty and students for ready access. Additional support remains available to all users through the Information Technology Services Help Desk. During the Spring 2009 semester, SWOSU offered 255 courses with 167 active instructors.

In addition to the financial benefit received by being a member of the Consortium, having contacts to confer with has proven to be a means for additional support for Site System Administrators and enabled the exchange of ideas to best utilize the system.

*“The benefits gained as a result of the migration are evident in the increased number of users accessing the system on a daily basis.”*

Karen Klein | Programmer/Analyst,  
Information Technology Services

To learn more about our clients visit us at: [www.Desire2Learn.com](http://www.Desire2Learn.com)

# CONTACT US

## About Us

Desire2Learn includes Desire2Learn Incorporated and its subsidiaries.

Desire2Learn is a global provider of enterprise eLearning solutions enabling leading institutions and organizations to create teaching and learning environments that support them in realizing their vision.

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