



U.S. Department of Justice

National Institute of Corrections

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MEMORANDUM

To: **Ida Halasz**
From: **Eileen Conway** *ECW*
Date: 1/3/95
Re: Distance Training Request

Lacking any documentation to forward, I thought I'd summarize for you the outcome of the request for information on distance training of staff that you received from Florida. We will also enter a copy of this memo into the collection, to have further access to this information until more becomes available on the topic. This information was conveyed on December 29th to a representative of the person who contacted you.

You were quite correct in your recollection that Oklahoma has been looking into the possibility of using distance techniques for staff training. Janiece Siegerist of the Oklahoma Employee Training and Development Center reports that, in addition to participating in NIC Academy teleconferences, they are actively pursuing entering their own distance training arrangements. They have submitted a grant application to the Oklahoma Department of Energy to test distance training for the DOC, as the Department of Energy has funding available for efforts to reduce energy expenditure in the state. The grant, if funded, would include a segment to train instructors in how to train via satellite, a pilot training that would involve staff statewide, and four upper management courses/meetings that would be carried out interactively. She reports that their Academy is located on the grounds of Oklahoma State University, which is active in satellite use. She also mentioned that one of their staff, Alex Mazon, is planning to do his dissertation on this topic.

Thinking that the Bureau of Prisons might be the next most likely source, I contacted Glyngo but found, at least preliminarily, that they are not involved in this activity. (There

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is a possibility there is some distance training happening in one department, but staff were not available due to the holidays.)

I next tried the Bureau's Management and Specialty Training Center in Aurora with greater success. Speaking with Bob Douthitt, I learned that, although the NIC Academy is now more active than they are in the use of teleconferences, they are using PictureTel meetings for trainees to communicate with administrators in the Bureau's Central Office. Typically, PictureTel will be used to open and/or close a seminar, or to permit questions from students in two-hour blocks. Mr. Douthitt mentioned that your requestor from Florida would be welcome to observe this process in action, and I have passed that along.

Although the Correctional Training Network Catalog is not due until April, it might be a good idea for us to think toward including a question in the cover letter asking recipients whether their agencies have any involvement in distance training for staff.

Ms. Siegerist of Oklahoma has promised to keep us in mind if they are able to move forward on their proposal, and I will let you know if I encounter anything further.