



Embracing the Future

The Future of Online Education



Sizing the Opportunity: The Quality and Extent of Online Education in the United States, 2002-2003

- Funded by the Sloan Foundation, this report asked:
 - Will students embrace online education?
YES
 - Will institutions embrace online education? YES
 - Will faculty embrace online education?
UNSURE
 - Will the quality match that of face to face instruction? YES



Increasing Enrollment

- Over 1.6 million students took at least one course online in 2002.
- 11% of all students in higher education took courses online.
- 2003-2004 is expected to show a 20% increase in online student enrollment.



Institutional Embracement

- Will institutions of higher education embrace online education?
 - 81% of all institutions of higher education offer at least one fully or blended course.
 - Complete online degrees are offered by 34% of the institutions.
 - 67% of respondents believe online education is a critical long-term strategy.



Faculty Acceptance

- 60% of academic leaders believe their faculty accept and value online education...
- Which means that nearly 40% do not...



Quality Concerns

- Nearly 60% of academic leaders believe today's online courses are equal to or superior to their face to face counterpart.



What's driving this?

- Accessibility to courses
- Affordability
- Individuality
- Access to computers



Key Questions

1. Every class of institution expects an improvement in the learning outcomes for online courses: What aspects of the delivery of online education do they think will bring about this perceived improvement in quality?
2. There's concern over the effectiveness of online education to develop relationships and encourage engagement: How will faculty design courses to enhance relationships and encourage engagement?



Imagine the Possibilities

- If educators embrace the use of service-learning in online courses...
- There are over 1.5 million college students who will benefit...
- High school students in every state will benefit...
- Communities around the nation and world will be improved...



The Sloan Consortium

- The Sloan Center for Online Education
- www.scole.olin-babson.org