Happy 10th anniversary to DELO! Ten years ago, WKU had the bold vision to incorporate many evolving community, educational, and technological trends through the creation of DELO.

DELO helps bring WKU’s academic resources to people throughout the community and the world through distance and online learning, study away programs, cohort programs, summer sessions, dual credit, and winter term courses. It also provides administrative support for programs such as Faculty-Led Study Abroad and exceptional faculty resources through the new Center for Faculty Development. DELO has invested in a modern conferencing facility that not only serves faculty and students but also facilitates outreach programs for professional development and workforce training.

DELO’s enormous success is due to many factors. It has strong leadership and a very capable, talented, and resourceful staff. It also has strong support from faculty who have embraced DELO’s learning concepts with commendable enthusiasm.

As we celebrate a monumentally successful ten years of DELO, we are aware that the landscape of higher education continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace and that a vast array of academic programs are available everywhere. With such a successful and vibrant Division in place, I am confident that we are ready to meet the challenge.

Dr. A. Gordon Emslie, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Thank you for helping us celebrate our 10th anniversary! Upon its formation by the WKU Board of Regents on July 1, 2003, the mission of DELO was to extend WKU resources to meet the lifelong learning needs of citizens in South Central Kentucky, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond.

Our Mission
To extend the resources of WKU to meet the lifelong learning needs of citizens in South Central Kentucky, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond.

Our Purpose
To partner with WKU academic departments and colleges to identify, develop, and deliver educational resources to meet the needs of a wide variety of WKU constituencies.

Congratulations to everyone for a most impressive first ten years. The outreach stage is now set for generations to come!

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, President, Western Kentucky University

Thank you for being part of our first ten years. With your help, we will expand our services to reach even more people throughout the future and are confident that we will continue to develop innovative outreach programs to serve our University, our community, and our world.

Dr. Beth Laves, Associate Vice President, Extended Learning & Outreach

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and administrators who have combined their talents to build WKU’s Division of Extended Learning & Outreach (DELO). Over the last ten years, WKU has created one of the most dynamic and far-reaching outreach enterprises found anywhere in American higher education.

The key to our success has been the full engagement of the WKU faculty, who have embraced online learning and the creative distribution of certification and degree programs to meet the needs of our regional, national and global workplace. We have placed great confidence in our academic community to deliver learning to individuals both on and off campus to complement traditional degree programs and non-traditional learners. DELO has become a valued, integrated resource in the WKU undergraduate and graduate experience.

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Divisions of Extended Learning & Outreach

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Division of Extended Learning & Outreach

2003 - 2013

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2003
The WKU Board of Regents voted to create the Division of Extended Learning & Outreach. DELO officially began operating under WKU Academic Affairs on July 1, 2003.
Dr. Audrey Anderson was named DELO Interim Dean.
DELO was comprised of five units:
- Distance Learning
- Continuing Education
- Center for Training & Development
- Summer Sessions
- Knicely Conference Center

2004
Dr. Don Swoboda became the founding Dean of DELO.
Cohort Programs was formed, making it DELO’s seventh unit.
DELO became responsible for the administration of regional campuses in Glasgow, Owensboro, and Elizabethtown/Radcliff/Ft. Knox.

2005
The DELO Testing Center opened in Garrett Conference Center and began offering proctored testing services to Distance Learning students.
The Center for Training & Development created the TJ Samson Leadership Academy, a year-long program for hospital administrators.

2006
Online courses exceeded 13,000 enrollments.
The WKU Pre-College Strings Program, a partnership between WKU Continuing Education, Department of Music, Warren County School System, and Bowling Green Independent School System, reached participation of over 300 students.
Winter Term courses began, allowing over 1,500 students to catch up on missed courses, get ahead in their studies, or study abroad without taking an entire semester.

2007
The Center for Training & Development acquired 24 new partnerships.
Dual Credit course enrollments exceeded 2,000, with courses offered at 24 high schools throughout the state.
Independent Learning enrollments grew to 992, up 41% from the previous year. It also began offering its first master’s level courses.
Regional campuses, including Glasgow, Owensboro, and Elizabethown/Radcliff/Ft. Knox, grew an average of 12.7%.

2008
Dual Credit student enrollment reached over 1,100.
Winter Term student count reached 2,246, making it the highest since its inception in 2006.
The Knicely Conference Center hosted over 400 events including business meetings, receptions, conferences, holiday celebrations, and social events.

2009
Continuing Education had a total of 1,116 enrollments.
Online Learning reached 27,000 enrollments, offering 26 online degree programs (including 15 master’s, six bachelor’s, and five associate degrees).
Summer sessions enrollments increased to 6,612, making it the highest enrollment since it began.

2010
DELO launched the Study Away program, which offers full-credit courses within domestic locations. The first year resulted in 42 students participating in six Study Away courses.
The Knicely Conference Center completed the Knicely West expansion, hosting its first event - the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce Eye Opener.
South Campus Testing Center opened, making proctored exam services available at a second location.

2011
Study Away began administering WKU’s National Student Exchange (NSE) and Faculty-Led Study Abroad programs.
DELO restructured to create the Office of Academic Outreach which began overseeing Cohort Programs, Dual Credit, Online Program Services, Summer Sessions, and Winter Term.

2012-2013
The Office of Conferencing & Catering was formed, overseeing the Knicely Conference Center, Augenstein Alumni Center conference space, and the Erskine House.
The Distance Learning Testing Center administered over 13,000 exams.
Dual Credit reported record enrollment, with over 1,800 students.
Faculty-Led Study Abroad courses increased to 335 enrollments.
The Summer Sessions scholarship program expanded to provide tuition assistance to over 1,100 students.
Online enrollments increased to nearly 30,000 and online courses increased to 2,140.

2012-2013
Winter Term added 23 new courses and increased undergraduate enrollment over 2%.
The Center for Faculty Development was established to support faculty in all aspects of their work in teaching, learning, research, and growth.
The Center for Professional Development was formed, overseeing the units of Lifelong Learning, Career & Workforce Development, and the Workforce Training Center.