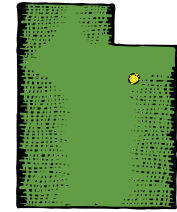


A+ Success Story



A+ Accelerates Independent Learning on Uintah-Ouray Reservation

Northern Ute Tribal Members Return to School and Leave as Graduates

The Uintah-Ouray Reservation of the Northern Ute Indian Tribe is the largest reservation in Utah and one of the largest in the United States. Several thousand members of the Whiteriver, Uintah, and Uncompahgre bands live on millions of acres of Ute land in northeastern Utah, often in small, widely separated communities.

Fort Duchesne (pop. 621), which was closed by the Army in 1912, is part of the Uintah-Ouray Reservation and serves as its headquarters. There is work to do and decisions to be made: The Uintah-Ouray Reservation contains extensive reserves of oil, timber, and water. Raising cattle is a major source of income. The tribe operates a supermarket, gas stations, a feedlot for cattle, the municipal water system, and an energy company.

Fort Duchesne is also the home of the Uintah River High School, a charter school, and the community-based adult education program; they provide secondary education to mostly members of the Ute Tribe. Both the high school and the adult education program deliver courses with the *A+nyWhere Learning System*® (*A+LS*™) courseware.

At a Glance

School Location: Fort Duchesne, Utah

Challenge: Successfully graduate adult learners who dropped out of traditional high school classroom settings

Solution: Self-paced and individualized computer lab implementation of *A+LS* for this independently-minded population

Result: In the past two years, 11 adult ed students have received high school diplomas through their program.

A+LS helps prevent the student from falling behind.

— JENNA DUNCAN,

UTE INDIAN TRIBE'S ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Jenna Duncan has been the Ute Indian Tribe's adult education program coordinator since 2007. "The high school uses *A+LS* for credit recovery with students who are still in school," says Duncan. "In adult ed, we use *A+LS* with students who have dropped out and come back to earn a high school diploma."

Duncan describes the adult education system setup: "We have 10 computers in the adult ed lab. *A+LS* tech support has been very good. My initial training on the system was thorough, and I got a lot of one on one time. Right now, we use *A+LS* only on the local network. In the next several weeks, we'll be adding a school to home capability that will allow students who have their own computers to study at home. Not all our students have computers, but many of the communities have a shared workstation, available to all community members. With school to home in place, our students will be able to continue their educations with fewer delays. At the same time, even though the students will be working offsite, I'll be able to keep track of each student's progress."

"Our students are independent learners," says Duncan. "They seem to work better that way. I'm not sure of the exact reason. I'm a facilitator, helping them learn. These are students who

have had a hard time in the traditional classroom. But as independent learners using *A+LS*, our native students are succeeding. *A+LS* allows for very individualized learning. I like that *A+LS* can stop exactly where the student needs to stop, and then can pick up again exactly where the student left off—even if the student misses a week or two, as our adult ed students occasionally have to do. *A+LS* helps prevent the student from falling behind.”

Duncan strongly endorses a self-paced learning strategy. “Some students can complete courses in less time than others,” says Duncan. “*A+LS* creates a tremendous opportunity for each student to learn at his or her own pace and to earn credits in the shortest possible time. There is no fixed amount of seat time that is required of all students.”

“One student from this summer stands out as an example,” Duncan continues. “He needed six credits. Within two months he had caught up and was back on track for graduation. He was able to learn at his own pace. As he moved through the lessons and learned the material, the credits came as a natural result.”

Research Supports Experience

Research confirms Duncan’s observations. One study conducted in Texas, documented in *Credit Recovery: A Technology Based Intervention for Dropout Prevention At Wichita Falls High School* (Trautman and Lawrence, 2004), found that students who had completed half or more of the credits

needed for graduation and who then took part in an intensive credit recovery program using *A+LS* courseware were able to earn recovery credits at about twice the rate of students in the general population. Furthermore, the students taking part in the credit recovery program did nearly as well as students in the general population on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, which is required of all students for high school graduation in Texas.

The American Education Corporation, with 28 years of experience in educational technology, has developed *A+LS* to realize the potential of a proven, research based instructional design that emphasizes comprehension, problem solving, and retention. The *A+LS* curriculum is aligned with standards in all 50 states, across the full spectrum of course titles in the language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. *A+LS* employs sophisticated technologies, but doesn’t shy away from traditional methods that have proven their worth. “I like the way that *A+LS* incorporates note taking as part of learning on the computer,” says Duncan.

Throughout their history, the Ute people have demonstrated a tenacious pride in their culture, land, and destiny. It’s a destiny that encompasses the people as a whole and each individual member of the tribe. “In the last two years,” says Duncan, “I’ve graduated 11 students through our adult ed program.” These students are now far better prepared to meet the challenges that inevitably lie ahead—better prepared to take part in a destiny that is, as the Ute people say, forever.

About The American Education Corporation (AEC)

Early recognition of the national trend in school accountability, combined with an understanding of the impact of the Internet on education, has allowed AEC to become an industry leader in e-learning solutions. Few education companies offer the systemized combination of formative assessment, proven instruction, alignment to standards, and data management and reporting capabilities of AEC’s comprehensive courseware and learning management system.

The *A+nyWhere Learning System*[®] (*A+LS*[™]) software program is an e-learning solution ideal for schools searching for more efficient ways to improve their instructional processes. The *A+LS* courseware program consists of an award-winning instructional management system supported by significant core curriculum content for grades K–12 and adult learners delivered through a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the Internet. The research-based curriculum content is in the subject areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Writing, and Social Sciences. This curriculum is linked to state standards and combined with valuable formative assessment tests designed to guide instruction throughout the school year — as well as give school administrators the data they need to ensure maximum student performance.

Would you like to learn more about the *A+nyWhere Learning System*?

Give us a call at 800.480.3935 to arrange a custom product demonstration with Backbone Communications, your local licensed product reseller.

You can also check us out on the web at www.BackboneCommunications.com

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Uintah River High School • Fort Duchesne, Utah