

FAST FACTS

Name: Dr. Kelley Flaherty

Role: Full-time faculty member in the College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics

Institution: Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, WV

Challenge: Providing distance learning biology labs that students can easily follow and complete, and that seamlessly integrate with lectures.

Solution: Carolina Distance Learning® Design Your Own Biology Kit

Results: Labs that perfectly parallel lectures and that students readily understand and complete on their own.

CONTACT:

Carolina Distance Learning®

www.carolina.com/distance-learning

distancelearning@carolina.com

(866) 332-4478

Carolina Distance Learning® Lab Kits: Making It Easy to Design, Teach, and Learn

A professor successfully launches her university's first online biology course with straightforward, effective labs from Carolina Distance Learning®.



Create. Carolina Distance Learning's Design Your Own Biology Kit lets you choose materials to complement your course curriculum.

When Alderson Broaddus University (ABU) first offered its General Biology I course as a distance learning class, Dr. Kelley Flaherty was tasked with teaching the course, including identifying labs that fit the course curriculum and that students could easily do at home. It didn't take long to realize the difficulty involved in putting together a set of labs that fit those criteria. "I spent a lot of time piecing together labs," she explains.

Then Carolina Distance Learning® reached out to Dr. Flaherty. Carolina's distance learning specialist listened as Flaherty described the course curriculum and requirements. "I needed a lab kit that would flow seamlessly with the course content," says Flaherty, "and the investigations needed to be easy for students to follow and complete." The distance learning specialist led her to the Design Your Own Biology Kit.

Easy Kit Design

With more than 60 biology investigations to choose from, Flaherty found it easy to design a kit that paralleled her course curriculum. She also was pleased to find investigations that provided the depth of content needed for the General Biology I course, a curriculum ABU designed for students pursuing science-based majors such as pre-medicine, exercise science, and others.

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STUDENTS ARE SAYING ...

"I like the labs where we get to choose what we test, like choosing a type of food to experiment on. That's really fun!"

Effortless Implementation

Moving from design to implementation, Flaherty again was pleased with her kit. "It is very easy to integrate the kit into the course. I experienced no problems at all," she reports. The clear, step-by-step instructions and comprehensive materials provided for each investigation meant she didn't have to spend precious time troubleshooting problems. As the course progressed, Flaherty was able to interweave the lab learning with her lectures, making the kit a valuable teaching tool.

Trouble Free Learning

On the learning side, Flaherty's students were very successful in completing the investigations in their lab kits. "The kit's lab manual was well received by students, and they were able to follow the instructions on their own with no problems." In addition, students benefited from the complementarity of the labs and lectures. The background content at the beginning of each lab activity reinforces the



Building confidence. Students are able to understand and complete the lab investigations with ease, which builds their confidence and skills as the course progresses.

lecture material, providing students with yet another opportunity to learn and review the information.

ABU's Distance Learning Grows

Building on the success of their first online biology class, ABU expanded their online science course offerings the following year to include Introductory Biology. "Introductory Biology is a general education course for non-science majors," explains Flaherty, "so a different makeup of investigations was needed." Flaherty again turned to Carolina Distance

Learning® for a user-friendly, buildable lab kit. The breadth of investigation topics available enabled her to design a kit that covers the wider curriculum studied in Introductory Biology—everything from atoms to ecosystems!

Dr. Flaherty is very happy with the Carolina Distance Learning® kits and the success they are helping her students and the university achieve.

"The Carolina team provides good follow-up support with quick response time. It's been a really good experience for me."

—Dr. Kelley Flaherty, Assistant Professor of Biology, Alderson Broaddus University

[Request a Sample Kit](#)

