

A virtual partnership: Carolinas Consortium

Written by

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Appalachian State University and Clemson University signed a virtual partnership Friday.

The institutions collaborated to form “The Carolinas Virtual World Consortium”, an on-line learning community in virtual worlds like “Second Life.” Clemons’s Bruce Rafert says not to worry- it’s not going to replace a traditional classroom.

“I think this is an enhancement. We’re never going to replace the interaction between real students in the real world. This is a way to bring a lot more information and resources into the hands of a student at a specific point in time.”

Classes are already being offered at Clemson in the virtual world. Appalachian State University Provost Stan Aeschleman (Ash-ul-men) is excited about what the partnership could mean for on-line distance education programs at Appalachian.

“Not only would it be a distance education program, it would be cutting edge distance education.”

Clemson will provide the complex graphics and programming- but ASU will have its own unique contributions to the project.

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“What our faculty members in the college of education know about pedagogy can greatly influence how this technology is used,” Aeschleman says.

Clemson officials say this is the largest partnership of its kind.