

**ICUS, 1997
Washington, DC
Session V:**

Panel Discussion # 1:

Tele-Education: Alternative or Necessity?

Panel Moderator: Jacques Dubois, Project Director, PBS *Going the Distance* Project

Description of Session

This panel reflects on new paradigms, alliances, and explores the transformation power of distance learning and information technologies on higher education culture. The panel will examine four new imperatives: demographic changes and enrollment shifts; the pairing of education and economic success; the new wave of technology; and trends in globalization, to interpret whether tele-education is an alternative or a necessity. The moderator and panelists will address to what extent they believe information technologies, student-centered distance learning programs, distributive learning, the virtual campus, can transform the culture of higher education and redefine roles, practices, and functions to meet the needs and the demands of the Information Age. This panel promotes new thinking about new possibilities for our evolving learning society and invites us to consider inter-institutional collaboration and the potential for a pervasive global electronic network for education and research.