Kansas State University’s Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, or CATL, plays a large role in the quality of a distance student’s educational experience at K-State.

The main goal of CATL is to provide an exchange of ideas, resources, and support for K-State instructors who develop and teach distance education courses. The Center coordinates events and maintains resource material that help instructors learn more about the art and science of teaching.

Jana Fallin, CATL’s interim director and professor of music education at K-State, says one faculty resource is the K-State Distance Learning Video Gallery. This project, developed by Dr. Roger McHaney, includes videos of seasoned K-State distance education instructors as they share best practices for online teaching and learning.

CATL also provides resources for academic advisors who work with undergraduate students, including distance education students. This helps ensure that K-State advisors of both on-campus and distance students have the resources to continue guiding and mentoring undergraduate students through their degree completion.

View advising FAQs for students resources at www.k-state.edu/advising/students.html.

Visit the CATL website to learn more about teaching and learning resources at K-State: www.k-state.edu/catl.
Distance Instructor Profile
Sociology Professor Wins National Continuing Education Teaching Award

L. Susan Williams, Associate Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, received the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. This national award honors instructors who have provided outstanding teaching, course development, student mentoring, and service to continuing education. Williams has developed and taught innovative courses on campus and online, including “Social Construction of Serial Murder” and “Death Penalty.” She is featured in K-State’s Distance Learning Video Gallery, providing best practices for distance learning. Williams says she gets invigorated each time she is in the same room—physically or virtually— with others who teach students at a distance.

Awards and Scholarships
Continuing Education Reception Recognizes Achievements, Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Division of Continuing Education honors exceptional distance students, scholarship recipients, faculty, staff, and programs. At the 2012 DCE Honors and Awards Reception, nearly 70 students were inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society, a non-traditional student society focusing on excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service. This year, for the first time, the Division awarded two Diversity Scholarships, offered exclusively to distance education students in cooperation with the K-State Office of Diversity. This new $1,000 scholarship creates more opportunity for distance students to complete their K-State education. Read more about this year’s scholarship recipients at www.dce.k-state.edu/about/news/2012/january-26.

Campus Events
Fall Term Brings Activities, Opportunities for Distance Education Students

K-State distance education students have lots of reasons to plan a visit to the Manhattan campus this fall! Cat Town, September 1, is a tailgate event near the football stadium with food, music, and campus booths, including one for the Division of Continuing Education. Twenty-five distance students won a pair of tickets to the Cat Town football game through the K-State Distance Facebook page. K-State Family Day, September 15, showcases the history, tradition, and special connection between K-State, students, and families through campus activities. K-State Homecoming, October 21-27, includes weeklong campus activities ending with the homecoming game against Texas Tech on October 27. See what else is going on this fall by viewing the university calendar at www.k-state.edu/calendar.

K-State recently welcomed three new deans to campus: Debbie Mercer, College of Education; John Floros, College of Agriculture; and Verna Fitzsimmons, K-State Salina. View a complete list of deans at www.k-state.edu/media/mediaguide/colleges.html.