Spanning the frontier

Greenland is a vast playground of arctic adventure for outdoorsmen. The country’s sparse population is often separated by more than a hundred miles, creating significant barriers in bringing students together at all levels. In 2006, The Ministry of Education, Church, Culture & Gender Equality and its consortium, E-forum, partnered with Zaqsolutions A/S to implement a virtual education platform serving nearly 3,000 students and teachers in everything from primary schools to vocational colleges.

“There was the mindset across Greenland that people had to make a difficult journey to enjoy face-to-face experiences,” says Lasse Ziska, head of secretariat at E-forum. “We wanted to break through that thinking and take advantage of new technology, as well as better leverage the country’s existing IT infrastructure.” To deliver more engaging lessons with increased interactivity, The Ministry of Education, Church, Culture & Gender Equality chose Adobe Connect.
Expensive broadband and satellite connections, and often unreliable radio Internet connections have resulted in citizens using smartphones as their primary device for online services. With Adobe Connect, The Ministry of Education, Church, Culture & Gender Equality can engage the largest audience possible through mobile devices, offering participants the same high-quality experience as desktop or laptop users. “Adobe Connect enables participants to tap into the full potential of their mobile devices, incorporating video and other experiences into virtual classes,” says Ziska. “Because we can make learning available on each person’s preferred device, Adobe Connect encourages greater participation.”

While Adobe Connect can be used on its own to manage and track training, Adobe Connect also integrates with existing Learning Management Systems (LMS) across the consortium, such as Moodle, to centralize management. At the same time, advanced language capabilities in Adobe Connect extend the reach of learning programs.

In addition to offering citizens easy access to scheduled classes, The Ministry of Education, Church, Culture & Gender Equality uses Adobe Connect to hold webinars that promote future virtual learning programs. Leading into the event, Greenland Department of Education uses the Adobe Connect Events Module, along with LMS platforms, to promote and organize each webinar, simplifying event management and audience re-engagement.

Most importantly, the country’s new learning environment expands the types of content that can be made available. Within technical and vocational training programs, students can participate in courses from auto repair to software training to build job skills. "The opportunities for learning are endless with Adobe Connect," says Ziska. "Using it as a webinar platform also helps us raise awareness for online learning across Greenland, while empowering us to continually enhance the reach and quality of online education as efficiently as possible."

For more information
www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect