

## Dr. Susan James Receives Prestigious eLearning Award

In April, Dr. Susan James received the eLearning Educator of the Year award from the eLearning Consortium of Colorado. The nomination was submitted by Carl Melle and Dr. Al Powell of the CSU Division of Continuing Education, who work with faculty across campus in distance delivery of CSU courses and degrees.



Dr. Susan James (center) with Hunt Lambert, Vice Provost of Continuing Education (left) and Carl Melle (Program Director, Continuing Education)

Dr. James has taught distance courses for more than 10 years, and in the last two years moved from videotape and DVD delivery to online courses and other internet-accessible tools. Using multiple delivery modalities is something that very few instructors have attempted, and is especially noteworthy, given that Engineering is a difficult subject to teach in person, much less via distance delivery.

By creating common venues of communication, such as RamCT (that provides links both to full audio/video recordings of lectures and to smaller bandwidth recordings of screen capture with audio), blogs, and wikis, she facilitates class discussion and promotes better understanding, strong connections between her students and within her courses.

Dr. James is founder and Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering, was recently appointed Head for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and leads both departments in use of distance technologies. She has adapted her presentations to take full advantage of the touch-screen Symposium as she interactively records lectures, and makes separate screen capture and audio recordings available to help both campus and distance students. She is a leader in her departments and college, and her approach to course design has become a model in distance education at CSU.