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## Online tutoring educates anywhere

By Wes Kappelman/Daily Correspondent

Now "e-tutoring" can join the ranks of e-mail, e-cash and e-zine in Internet jargon. Students in kindergarten through college can learn from tutors halfway across the world.

Niki Davis, director for the ISU Center for Technology in Learning and Teaching, thinks people will convert to e-tutors.

"I think the majority of people with enough money will go for an Internet-based approach for two reasons," Davis said. "It's flexible, it fits in your schedule and you can do the one-to-one tutoring."

Davis also said the whiteboard technology used in e-tutoring has been around for 20 years. She said the technology is also being used in Iowa and Florida in virtual classrooms for students taking classes that are not offered at their schools.

"One of the problems with e-learning is the people that need it most have the least access," Davis said.

Adam Plummer, senior in mathematics, said being able to do one-to-one communication is a good way to teach math.

"As far as quality of instruction itself, I don't think you really gain anything," Plummer said.

Joel Jones, senior in elementary education, agrees.

"It's a lot easier to try and focus attention in a one-on-one situation than if you're doing it over computer," Jones said.

Jones said because of e-learning's ability to teach specialized classes at smaller schools and its flexibility, districts that don't invest in the technology are going to be left behind.

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