

News of Education

Master's Degrees Within Reach

(NAPSA)—The hurdles of earning a master's degree, such as the need to maintain one's career, manage family responsibilities and rearrange an already busy schedule, have been greatly reduced. Since 1993, one university has led the development of the online learning sector and given those with the dream of earning a master's degree the ability to achieve it.

The university, Jones International University (JIU), is a fully online university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a member of North Central Association, that makes high-quality, interactive learning more accessible and affordable to adults worldwide. All courses are delivered via the Internet allowing students around the globe, in heavily populated metropolises, and remote, rural areas, to share an online classroom.

The online learning industry continues to expand as more and more people seek to attain their goals without sacrificing their limited amount of free time. The flexibility of an online program allows people ranging from stay-at-home moms and people with full-time jobs to military personnel and recent high school graduates to earn the degree they want on their own schedules. E-learning students are generally adult learners with multiple work and family responsibilities fitting many different profiles:

- Professionals currently in the workforce using continuing education to move up the corporate ladder or re-focus their career path.
- Individuals including stay-at-home parents who have been out of the workforce and need some re-tooling to pursue a career.
- Adult learners without access to a traditional institution due to geographic or time constraints.
- High school and college graduates seeking an alternative to a traditional brick and mortar on-

E-learning makes master's degree accessible for working adults.

campus experience.

Though online learners represent a very diverse audience, they share similar characteristics. E-learning requires a student who is self-motivated and takes charge of his or her own educational goals. Most importantly, online learning students clearly understand that it is never too late to make a significant change. One recent JIU graduate spent 25 years in the banking industry before changing the course of his career. He earned a Master of Arts degree in business communication and used his degree as a means of launching a new career in the field of secondary education.

Not only can earning an advanced degree be personally fulfilling, statistics suggest that it is also economically rewarding. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, annual average earnings in 1999 for those 18 and over who had completed high school was \$24,572; those with bachelor's degrees earned on average \$45,678, or 86 percent more.

To speak to an education counselor about earning an advanced degree at Jones International University, call 1-800-811-5663; or visit the Web site at www.jonesinternational.edu.