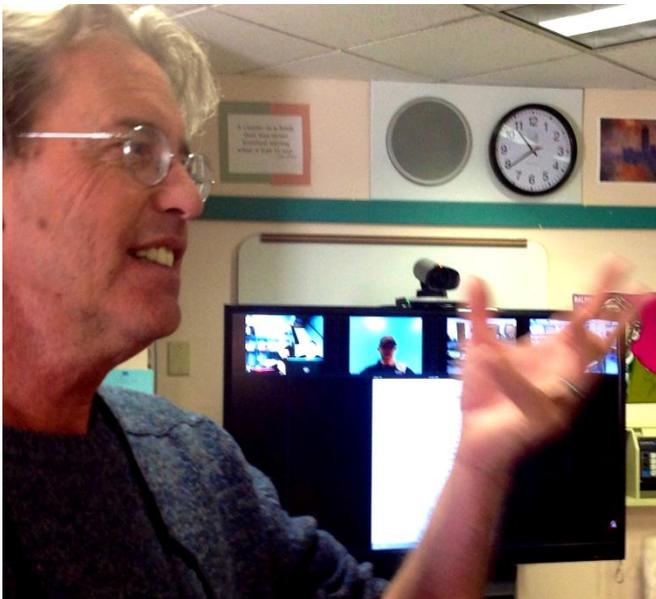




## Telluride HS Delivers AP English Lit Statewide

Advanced Placement courses are popular as a means of providing evidence in a student's transcript of a willingness to take challenging courses and face rigorous testing. Unfortunately, AP classes are not as easily available for striving students at small enrollment rural schools as at urban and suburban districts. However, just about every rural district has strengths to share and needs to fill, sometimes including AP classes and the opportunity for distance learning. Video distance learning technology is now at a point where a school does not need a grant to get started with it.



David Lavender, an English teacher at Telluride High School, is making an effort this year to provide his Advanced Placement English Literature class to students in several other rural Colorado communities.

"After some initial technological hurdles, I've been surprised by how seamless the class is." Lavender said, "It's really not all that different from teaching a 'regular' class."

His class includes three students in Brush, two in Lake City, and one in Mancos. Two competitive ski racers (Telluride High School students) who are currently training in Switzerland are also able to participate in the class via video distance learning. "Students in my classroom and my remote students interact amazingly well together," Lavender added.

Carly Guthmiller, taking the class from the Lake City Community School agrees. "I never expected this class would be as fun, helpful, interactive and educational as it is!" She said. Danny File, also in Lake City, said, "Awesome experience! I learned so much about literary analysis and the benefits of peer review, and had the opportunity to be critiqued and challenged to write college-level essays."

Getting started was not without some initial problems. The class would have almost twice as many remote students if it had been possible to better align student schedules at some interested districts. There was also a learning curve for setting up the relatively simple technology to support singleton and small group student participation. Parent comments already note improvements in writing skills and ACT writing scores and an appreciation of the use of technology to deliver what parent Ruthanne File called "the opportunity for an incredible learning experience." Lavender's class has proved to be an engaging and popular learning experience for its remote students.

Based on this year's experience, Telluride high school may offer the course next year to a larger group of remote participants, perhaps as a zero-hour class. Lavender would like to hear from interested schools to see if he can include more students the next time the course is offered.

Schools, students, or parents who are interested can contact him at [dlavender@telluride.k12.co.us](mailto:dlavender@telluride.k12.co.us).

## Challenger Reach 2 U – A Challenger Center of Colorado ([www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org)) free distance learning program (funded by NASA)

Imagine a class of students embarking on an exciting space mission without ever leaving the classroom! This Internet-based program provides a unique, standards-based opportunity that incorporates their STEM and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills into a futuristic real-world scenario.

Working in teams, students are challenged to locate a lost spaceship and rescue the astronauts on board.

In collaboration with a Flight Director at the Challenger Learning Center of Colorado (CLCC), students use the math and science skills developed through the provided curriculum to calculate and analyze flight paths, transcribe coded messages and determine resource availability in order to carry out a successful rescue mission.

Challenger Reach 2 U is FREE to eligible schools thanks to funding from a NASA grant.



To qualify for the grant an elementary school class must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Predominantly underserved students
- Located in a rural area
- Students of low socio-economic status (i.e., Title I)
- Class includes one or more Native American Students

Participating classes must be a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or a 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade combination class. Traveling mission technology kits are available for loan to districts that do not have the necessary technology requirements. Program and related questions may be directed to our Registrars at 719-598-9755 or [registration@ccls.org](mailto:registration@ccls.org).

## CU Mini Med School is Going Global

[https://www.cusys.edu/forcolorado/feature\\_mini-med.html#.UpTL\\_CdGbIE](https://www.cusys.edu/forcolorado/feature_mini-med.html#.UpTL_CdGbIE)

CU Mini Med School, the oldest Mini Med School in the world (begun 1989), is going global in MOOC form early in 2014. This is a great opportunity for students and others interested in medical careers and topics.



The CU Mini Med School has been available to more than a dozen sites via interactive video for many years, but in MOOC form will be available worldwide. Mini Med School Founder Dr. J.J. Cohen has said, "We'd love to be able to reach every school district in Colorado."

The program covers the basic science that underlies medicine: topics such as molecular and cell biology, anatomy and physiology, immunology, cancer, virology and cancer biology.

CU is not the only Mini Med School on the net, but is a pioneering MOOC. For example, Stanford University has a 2009-2010 video lecture series based Mini Med School on the net: <http://med.stanford.edu/minimed/>.