Most Agree that orientations for new students are essential beginnings to a successful college career. According to Ramist (1981) "in order to retain students, it is important to help them make the most of their college experience by providing them with a good start through the orientation." At these orientations, students learn about our increasingly complex registration processes. They learn which courses to select. They are guided toward decisions about degrees, transfer, and vocational emphases. They are introduced to the array of services available to them such as counseling, financial aid, student affairs, and re-entry programs. An orientation is a wonderful beginning for any college student.

Unfortunately, many new students do not attend an orientation. Some of these are older, or working adults who, due to time constraints, simply cannot make it to campus for an orientation. This Distance Orientation Project offers a convenient, cost-effective alternate for these older, working adults. It will give students all that essential information before they begin their college work from the convenience of their home anytime their schedule permits. The orientation will be broadcast on cable and the accompanying workbook will be distributed with the class schedules. Students, no matter how busy, can gain the benefit of an orientation without leaving home. With this Distance Orientation, many students will begin college with this important information. They no longer need to begin college lost, confused, and worried.

Distance Education holds promise as a solution for many of California's educational challenges. This Distance Orientation is an opportunity to use the widely available technology to offer a cost-effective, convenient student service which addresses the challenge of student success in California community colleges.