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## Invite Letter for Pew Symposium in Learning and Technology in Miami

Carol Twigg

*National Center for Academic Transformation*

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December 17, 1999

salutation

title

institution

address

address2

city state zip

Dear :

I am writing to ask you to participate in an invitational symposium at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami, Florida on February 17-18, 2000, on the topic of " "Who Owns Online Courses and Course Materials: Intellectual Property Policies for a New Learning Environment." This symposium is the second in an exciting new series, The Pew Symposia in Learning and Technology.

The purpose of the Pew Symposia in Learning and Technology is to conduct an ongoing national conversation about issues related to the intersection of learning and technology. The symposia will marshal the thinking of acknowledged experts and frame the issues in ways that are useful as the higher education community incorporates uses of information technology into the academic program. The program will convene two symposia per year from 1999 through 2002 and produce monographs based on those discussions from a public-interest perspective.

The Pew Symposia series is one part of a new three-part program, the Pew Learning and Technology Program. The goal of this \$8.8-million, four-year effort is to place the national discussion about the impact that new technologies are having on the nation's campuses in the context of student learning and ways to achieve this learning cost-effectively.

The new capabilities offered by distributed learning environments have created a storm of controversy regarding ownership of online materials. Current copyright and patent policies appear to many to be inadequate

to deal with these new phenomena. When college and university faculty create online courses or online course materials, who owns them? If institutions or individuals wish to develop relationships with commercial enterprises in this arena, what are the factors that advance or inhibit such relationships? This symposium will explore the policy questions associated with the production of online learning and establish a conceptual framework to assist institutions in developing appropriate policies.

We intend to invite a sub-set of the symposium participants to develop short position papers, drawing upon their particular expertise or point of view, in response to a series of questions that frame a facilitated discussion of about twenty invited participants. The discussion will begin at 1:00 pm on February 17, preceded by an optional lunch, and continue until 12:00 pm the next day, February 18, again ending with an optional lunch. A dinner and informal conversation at the elegant Biltmore Hotel will also take place on February 17. A monograph, based on the discussion, will be published in the spring of 2000.

For those who have not been to Miami in February, I can assure you of an intensely pleasing experience. I anticipate that the intensity of the discussion will match the setting!

I have attached a list of invited participants for your information. I would be very pleased to have you join us. Would you please contact Pat Bartscherer (518-695-5320 or bartp@rpi.edu) by January 1 to confirm your attendance? Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions.

Cordially,

Carol A. Twigg  
Executive Director  
Center for Academic Transformation

twiggc@rpi.edu