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Monograph Distribution Letter (Chronicle) for Pew Symposium in Learning and Technology in Miami

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Dear Colleague,

Since the *Chronicle* frequently covers intellectual property issues, I thought that the enclosed monograph, *Who Owns On-Line Courses and Course Materials: Intellectual Property Policies for a New Learning Environment*, might be of interest to you. You will note that many of the symposium participants appear regularly in your publication as expert sources on this issue. This is the second monograph from the Pew Symposia on Learning and Technology.

The monograph captures the results of an invitational symposium on this topic held on February 17-18, 2000, in Miami, Florida. Participants included recognized experts on the topic of intellectual property; those who are actively engaged in developing and implementing on-line programs and who are grappling with intellectual property issues on a daily basis; people who approach the issue from a corporate perspective and who collaborate with both individuals and institutions; and noted higher education thinkers on the topic of technology-mediated programs.

Many institutions are having a great deal of difficulty trying to decide what their policy should be, and their inability to decide can be disruptive to the internal fabric of the institution. Most published articles on this topic conclude with something like the following. "The real need is for an institution to have a clear statement of its policy and a mechanism to ensure that the issue of ownership is addressed as early as possible in the development process." Yet simply declaring that an institution needs a clear policy, while such a statement may be true, is not especially helpful. Our explicit goal in Miami was to produce a paper that would go beyond recommending that institutions have a policy and would give institutions some concrete advice about what that policy should be and why.

Five thousand printed copies of the monograph are being distributed to campus presidents of institutions of 3,000 or more students, EDUCAUSE institutional representatives (about 1800 CIOs), association officers and various other higher education opinion makers. The monograph is also available on our Web site (including a downloadable PDF version) at <<http://www.center.rpi.edu/PewSym/mono2.html>>.

Cordially,

CAT

Executive Director