

Grossology and IDS

Look back to the history of Grossology with the role played by IDSolutions and you'll ultimately find a colorful blue wall covered with strange graphics in a meeting room. It all started in 2003 when the IDS team decided to respond to a National Science Foundation grant based on Distance Learning and the subject of Grossology. What resulted was a virtual field trip destination that captured the hearts of thousands of students around the globe.



Burps, snots and a lot of really gross stuff launches IDS into the spotlight



What started as a fun and silly topic used to enlighten students about their own bodies turned into a very complex distance learning project that involved the integration of equipment from dozens of manufacturers, the creation of custom props and the cooperation from the authors of the Grossology book. For those of you who are not familiar with Grossology, it is a book based on teaching students about the human anatomy using the concept of really gross things. Burps, snots and (gasp) even vomit is used to help associate the human anatomy to something that students could relate to and find interesting while having fun.

The project was being funded by the National Science Foundation and IDSolutions had to compete against dozens of other video integrators for a limited pool of federal grant money. Proven ability to integrate such a large scale project, IP video experience and above all creativity were key factors in IDS being awarded the grant in 2004. As part of the project, a Grossology studio was constructed at IDS headquarters and is still a familiar background even today during the hundreds of video conferences that are conducted each year. Live actors were used to bring Grossology to life using high definition video conferencing technology as were dozens of props and costumes, some of which can still be seen in the familiar blue background of the Grossology room artwork and associated characters. In 2006 IDSolutions won the United States Distance Learning Association's Best Practices Silver Award in Distance Learning Practices K-12 and 21st Century Best Practices in Distance Learning K-12.

The Grossology room was finished in 2005 and became an immediate hit within the Distance Learning community as a destination for virtual field trips where students could laugh and learn at the same time. Although the Grossology rights were purchased by Discovery in 2008 which ultimately led to the end of the program, the Grossology artwork remains a colorful reminder of a very successful and creative project that helped bridge distance learning technology with a funny and gross topic that has educated thousands of students not only across the United States but around the world.

IDSolutions - Leaders in Integration and Solution Creativity

When it comes to providing visual communications, few companies can compete with our video offerings and customer support for the business, medical, government and educational community. IDSolutions' award winning designs can be used to deliver live event and rich media webcasts, capture a classroom environment, simulate a clinical skills lab, provide face to face meetings across continents and much, much more. IDSolutions - improving the way in which we all communicate.

