

COMMEMORATING OUR 50TH YEAR OF DISTANCE EDUCATION.

Join in the Celebration of NursingABC/Portage Learning's Golden Anniversary!

While many high schools and colleges had to scramble to accommodate online learning resulting from the pandemic's social distancing, did you know that Portage Learning's parent company, NursingABC, started pioneering distance education 50 years ago?

It was in 1972 that our founder, Dr. Ken Hartman, responded to a call from a local nursing school that had a group of applicants lacking the high-school-level chemistry course required to get into their program. Although he had a full teaching load as an organic chemistry professor at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., it was his desire to help students overcome any challenges to their academic and career preparation that led him to start teaching students in the evenings.

As word began to spread about how Dr. Hartman was assisting with the rising demand for nurses needing prerequisite courses, more nursing schools began sending him more students to get more than just chemistry courses. Soon, high-school-level algebra, geometry, lab-biology, and lab-physics courses were added to the curriculum requested by these schools. Thus was born NursingABC (representing **A**lgebra, **B**iology, and **C**hemistry).



Professor Hartman quickly recognized that the miles outlying students had to travel to his classroom were becoming a barrier to taking the prerequisites. Again, out of a desire to help students navigate obstacles in achieving their educational and career aspirations, NursingABC engaged the emerging technology of the day. By using camcorders to videotape lectures and mailing copies to students to watch—plus using electronic mail to attach curriculum and exams that students could email back for grading—the gap of distance was being bridged.

The overarching objective, however, wasn't just to get students through a course they needed. NursingABC's desire was to make sure that their learning experiences weren't diminished by distance education. Adjusting curricular and teaching methods would make it possible for students to have high-quality academic and health-career preparation, even while completing the classes from the comfort of their homes.

This commitment to educational excellence is affirmed by NursingABC's accreditation by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

In the early 2000s, as the requirement for nurses to have a bachelor's degree grew, so did the need for students to attain science and math prerequisites for college nursing programs. Because NursingABC is not a degree-awarding school, Dr. Hartman (now professor emeritus)

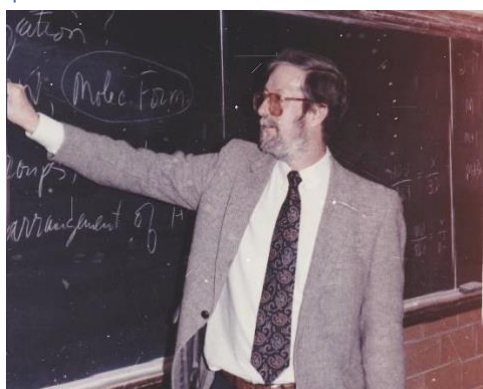
turned to his former employer, Geneva College, and Middle States Association to explore what it would take to offer courses for transferable credits to other colleges and universities.

Applying the lessons learned through decades of dedication to meaningful curriculum, pedagogy, and innovative delivery platforms, they were well poised to meet the new demands of such courses. Through the recruitment of quality faculty and development of academic best practices and technological innovation, the expanded course offerings were evaluated and adopted by Geneva College for accreditation, bringing forth college classes under the name Portage Learning.

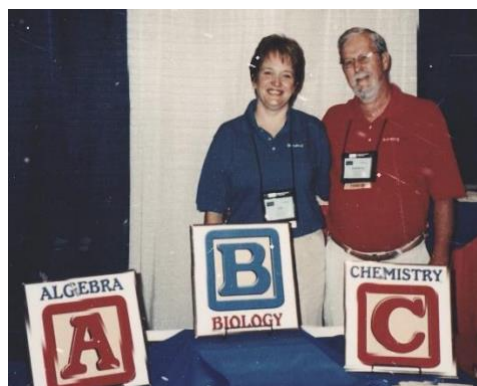
Currently, Portage Learning partners with Geneva in offering online labs and 30 college courses (including graduate-level) representing the disciplines of biology, chemistry, English, math, psychology, and humanities for students needing prereqs, co-reqs, and gen-ed classes as they pursue nursing, medical, allied health, and other programs.

Over 50 years of experience in honing instructional delivery through non-traditional platforms is what has allowed Portage Learning to be a pioneering leader in online education. And it's the drive for innovation to support students in their educational pursuits that remains at the core of what NursingABC and Portage Learning are doing today.

As we celebrate our golden anniversary in distance education, we would like to thank the nearly 1600 schools, colleges, and universities where we have sent transcripts on behalf of over 80,000 students during the past five decades. You are a valued part of this rich heritage, and we thank you for accepting our courses for equivalency and continuing to recommend NursingABC/Portage Learning to serve your students.



Professor Ken Hartman during the early years of NursingABC/Portage Learning's founding.



NursingABC/Portage Learning's founders, Dee and Dr. Ken Hartman, at a school conference