

Project Title: To Enhance Student Learning Through the Use of Technology by Conducting a Pilot Study Concerning the use of a Classroom Capture System

Project Category: Strategic Initiative Grant

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Total Amount of Funds Requested: \$15,200

Concise Project Summary: There has been a lot of interest on campus concerning the idea of Web and or Podcasting of course material for UMB students. We would like to purchase a classroom capture system that will allow us to capture, record, archive and publish classroom content via the web. Universities around the world are currently utilizing these types of systems and students and faculty are embracing these forms of online lectures for their ability to improve the quality and efficiency of classroom interaction.

Signature of Investigator's Supervisor: Paul J. Fonteyn, Provost

2. Project Narrative

This proposal requests funding to research, evaluate, purchase and install a classroom capture system in one of Umass Boston's distance learning classrooms to enable us to conduct a pilot study to determine whether such systems can be an effective tool to enhance the learning experience for our students and reduce language barriers.

Project Pilot Participants: Graduate College of Education's Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate Program offered via Multi-site Interactive Television and Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education's Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Treatment Services Program.

Project Goals:

The goal of this project is to implement a cutting edge classroom capture system at UMB that will impact our student's learning experience through the use technology by automatically producing Web-based Versions of the classroom experience for on-demand student review. This system can also be used to capture "Guest Speaker" presentations given to face to face classes and then make those lectures available as resources for future face to face and on-line classes. The classroom capture system could also be utilized in the future to record and archive faculty training workshops. This way faculty who are too busy to attend face to face to workshops or live out of state and teach on-line courses would have virtual access to the workshops via the web.

3. Project Deliverable

This project will:

1. Install a classroom capture system at UMB to aid our faculty in supporting distance learning students at local and remote locations.
2. Compare student learning when using only a captured lecture, or only a face to face lecture or a combination of face to face lecture followed by review using captured lecture, (with a small pilot sample of students that will then lead to a larger study the following year.)
3. Assess the usability and accessibility of the capture system for our students, particularly those with English as their second language, with disabilities or with access to computers only on campus, community centers and libraries.
4. Identify potential challenges and advantages for the faculty when using a capture system that will influence faculty training and support services.
5. Determine whether additional systems should be purchased and installed across the campus in large meeting halls to assist students in learning course material through the use of technology.
6. The anticipated teaching and learning outcomes of this pilot are:
 - Gage the use of classroom capture systems to increase student learning
 - Provide students with instant anytime, anywhere access of recorded face to face lectures
 - Provide students with a multimedia archive of course lectures for immediate and examination review

4. Dissemination of Project Results

The Principal Investigator and project team will survey ED ABA and ACDTSP faculty and students to get their feedback on the classroom capture system and how it impacted their learning.

5. Project Budget

The majority of requested funds - \$12,000 – are to purchase the hardware and software needed to install an automated classroom capture system.

\$3,500	Classroom Capture Workstation
3,500	Classroom Capture Software
4000	Classroom Capture Camera
1,000	Purchase VGA Distribution Amplifier
1,000	IT training and faculty support person (8 hrs x 5 months @ \$25/hr
1000	Stipend to hire Graduate Student for Faculty and Student Data Collection, (40 Hours @ \$25/hr)
1,200	Stipend for Two Professional Staff Members at UMB to Conduct Usability and Accessibility Study with a small group of students
In-Kind	Audio Distribution System and Wireless Microphone
In-Kind	Video Signal Distribution System
In-Kind	System Installation and Integration
In Kind	Interview faculty and students and assist with designing the project formative and summative evaluation (Mary Brady)

\$ 15,200 TOTAL

This project is consistent with Chancellor Collins' 2007 budget priority to improve teaching and learning on campus. The project participants are committed to working with the Chancellor, Provost, and deans to incorporate classroom capture system yearly renewal fees into ongoing budget requests.

6. Project Timeline

Summer 2007

- Research and Evaluate Classroom Capture Systems
- Purchase, Install and Integrate Classroom Capture System into DL Classroom
- Work with UMB Faculty on Course Design pedagogy to Maximize Capture System capabilities
- Develop System to Publish Captured Content to Students
- Design Project Evaluation Tools

Fall 07

- Capture Instructor VGA, Video and Audio Signals
- Publish Content to Students Immediately Following Class Session
- Work with Faculty and Students on System Evaluation

Spring 08

- Explore Implementation of Classroom Capture System for wider audience distribution in Media Auditorium

June 08

- Review pilot project and program data and identify successes, improvements needed, and generate recommendations, including budget implications, for the Provost
- Prepare project final report
- Provide training for next year's participants

7. Principal Investigator Qualifications

John Jessoe, Director of the Distance Learning Video Production Center, will be principal investigator. Mr. Jessoe has worked extensively with UMass Boston faculty to develop and implement multimedia technology for teaching and learning and has been conducting training for faculty for over 10 years about pedagogy supported by technology to enhance the learning opportunities for students. His department currently provides multimedia support for UMB's CCDE On-line Courses and technical support for all ITV class offerings.

8. Letters of Support (from all participants, program directors, deans,—not included within 5 pages) (See Attached)