Introduction to WVU's Technology Classroom Configuration and Implementation Guidelines

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The WVU technology classroom standards provide an established minimum requirement for technology function in any size general-purpose classroom. Supported by the iDesign Classroom (iDC) group, the original "iDC Standard" specification type, as well as variations to create other "iDC" specification types, was created to meet users’ diverse needs. Detailed documentation on each type is available in the official "WVU Technology Classroom Configuration and Implementation Guidelines" documentation. The following description is meant to introduce the concept based on the "iDC Standard" classroom, the original and most prevalent design being installed at WVU.

A standardized multimedia lectern has been adopted by WVU, with the capability to securely house the source, routing, and distribution equipment in designed locations. At the core of each technology system is a touch panel control unit with a standardized interface that allows the instructor to affect signal routing, source devices, audio and microphone volume/muting, and other room functions such as preset lighting levels. Projection equipment in the technology classroom allows users to display images from a networked PC with DVD-ROM or a document camera. Additionally, laptop computers or external audio-visual devices may be displayed by connecting to a standardized input panel. An interactive pen display connected to an ergonomic-arm provides computer annotation capabilities. Microphone installations are based on seating capacity, but can include gooseneck, wireless lapel-clip, and wireless handhelds. Source-specific sound is routed, mixed with microphone audio, and amplified to the room through a distributed speaker system. Connectivity for an ADA-compliant personal assistive listening system and a visual assist system is provided at each lectern. All classrooms with the above features use standardized brands and equipment models to allow for ease of use, ease of troubleshooting, and ease of maintenance.

For facilities that have the physical width and line-of-sight capability to accommodate two projection screens that allow all users to see both images, it is recommended that a dual-projection system be installed so that any source can be individually routed to either screen at any time. In these instances, audio from both projected images is available for the audience. Also in dual projector classrooms, the PC is configured with extended desktop for dual-screen display.

WVU requires specific guidelines to be followed for "iDC" standard designated instructional technology facilities as they are renovated or newly installed at WVU, and must be strictly followed. No deviations will be accepted without written authorization. WVU recommends these guidelines for all instructional technology facilities at our various campuses. These guidelines were designed based on issues such as system functionality commonly requested by users, equipment that has a good record of use, and equipment specifications that set it apart from similar equipment. These stem from experience with past installations, on-going classroom maintenance, and feedback from WVU faculty, staff, and administration.

The official "WVU Technology Classroom Configuration and Implementation Guidelines" documentation is available on the iDC web site and by contacting iDC directly. Sections within the documentation may change to accommodate future functionality needs and technology equipment evolution at any time without notice, so please contact iDC to obtain updates. Also, please note that the iDesign Classroom group does not provide direct installation or support to all WVU departments, but can provide assistance in selecting an appropriate vendor who can provide technology design and installation services.