

Title: Brightbox Secure Mobile Phone Charging Date: 7/1/2017
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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

College students are always on the go, moving between classes and student activities. Thanks to campus wide Wi-Fi, UL students can always stay connected through a variety of devices. Phones have become one of these important devices - facilitating student learning, allowing students to collaborate on projects, keep up to date with Moodle, and email their professors. However, phone batteries rarely keep up with students' demands. This grant seeks to bring Brightbox to campus, enabling students to keep their phones on and connected so they can stay active on campus.

Brightbox is a physically and digitally secure phone charging kiosk. By entering a pin number, students can open one of six charging bays. Each bay is equipped with a variety of chargers, allowing students to leave Android, iPhones, or any other type of phone behind. Charging happens as rapidly as the phone allows, allowing students to leave their "dead" phones during class and return to charged, ready-to-use devices. Students will no longer have to hover over their phones in corners next to outlets or chance leaving their phones on open chargers. We plan to place two of these boxes, initially, across campus, allowing up to 12 devices to be charged at one time.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is a connected campus, allowing students to roam its grounds while keeping up-to-date with all the University has to offer. Students are able to connect through a wide array of devices; however, the most ubiquitous device, cell phones, often cannot keep up with students' demands. Battery power has not yet reached a point where it can keep up with all the tasks students' throw at it. While there are several places to charge your phone on campus, there are none that allow the student to leave their phone behind. Students are forced into charging their phones for a few minutes at an open charging station, carefully watching their devices. Or, they must bring their own charger and seek out an open outlet on campus. In both scenarios, students cannot leave their phone behind for fear of theft (both physical theft and data theft). Brightbox charging kiosks solve this problem. Each kiosk is equipped with six digitally and physically secure charging bays. Each bay has several different charging wires, allowing all types of phones to be charged.

Importance of Keeping Students Connected

The daily use of phones, both in and out of the classroom, is constantly rising. Students use their phones to collaborate with each other on group projects, contact professors, and submit assignments. Instructors have also begun integrating phones into their curriculum. By combining phones with SMART classroom technology, instructors can quiz students, replace iClickers, and further appeal to their students' digitally inclined learning styles. Students can charge their phone between classes or during study breaks so that their phones are available for them to use in and out of the classroom.

Connectivity is also important in emergency situations. The University sends push-alerts during emergencies to those enrolled, allowing students to stay safe on campus. These kiosks will ensure that students' phones are on and ready to receive these messages. The digital screens on the kiosks can also be tied into campus wide digital signage, allowing them to display emergency information to students in the area who may not have opted in to alerts.

Benefits of Brightbox Kiosks

Brightbox kiosks will provide secure charging to students. In addition to its primary purpose, these kiosks feature a digital screen that can be tied into STEP's digital signage program. University departments and outside companies can utilize these screens to display announcements and advertisements. Brightbox creates a hands-off solution for providing secure charging to students. Brightbox ensures that phones are physically safe by locking the bays and allowing for pin access. Digital security is also provided by Brightbox, ensuring that sensitive data cannot be stolen from students' devices. The purchased of these Brightboxes also includes full 24/7 support for two years. If a student's phone is ever stuck inside a bay, Brightbox will remotely access the machine to solve their issue. Brightbox's fast and full support ensures that the University and STEP will not have to spend time keeping the kiosks online. Brightbox allows us to collect usage metrics, so that we can determine the success of their deployment. We can use these metrics to determine if we should continue the Brightbox program and if we should deploy more Brightboxes on campus. Through STEP's revenue generation, Brightbox will be self-sustaining in terms of maintenance and support.



Budget Proposal

Equipment	\$15,100
2 Brightbox Charging Stations	\$12,900
2 Stands	\$1700
2 Graphic Panels	\$500
Other	\$700
Shipping	\$700
TOTAL:	\$15,800