

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

---

**Computer Controlled Kiln**

Title

---

**Professor John Gargano**

Name of Submitter

*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

---

**Department of Visual Arts**

Organization

Title: Professor Date: 7/12/21  
Name (Contact Person): John Gargano  
Address: 116 Fletcher Hall  
Phone Number: 2-5330 Email: gargano99@louisiana.edu  
Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts

**ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

This request is for the acquisition of a computer controlled kiln to enhance our curricular offerings in the Ceramics Area. This kiln will allow students to fire medium to large scale works and achieve surfaces and glazes not achievable with manually fired kilns. The computer controller provides infinite flexibility for experimentation that is not possible with manually fired kilns. In addition, this kiln is an industry standard and will allow students to learn techniques and processes relevant to contemporary practices. Our ceramics program prides itself on providing students the means to express themselves and develop a personal vision with their artwork. This kiln will seamlessly fit into our kiln room infrastructure and provide immediate results to our students.

### **A. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole**

The purpose of this request is to enhance the learning outcomes for students in all Ceramics Area courses. The Department of Visual Arts, strives to bring advanced technologies into the classroom/lab to improve learning experiences and maintain pace with developments in our disciplines. Our goal is to provide students with marketable skill sets to make them competitive in their career pursuits.

The requested computer controlled kiln will allow students to quickly and efficiently fire larger scale works and achieve surfaces and glazes not achievable with manually fired kilns. Traditionally, kilns are manually fired and require constant monitoring to fire them successfully. A computer-controlled kiln is an industry standard now and will allow students to experiment with firing temperatures and approaches on small, medium and large scale works to meet their artistic needs. Currently, the ceramics area has one large electric kiln that was a donation from Hurricane Katrina. This kiln was non-functioning, rehabbed by Professor Gargano and is in dire need of replacement. This kiln is continually used and offers students a great opportunity to hone their firing skills and understand the principles of loading and unloading a kiln.

The Ceramics area courses are populated by students from Visual Arts, the School of Architecture and Design and the University at large. The introductory course is a requirement of all visual arts students.

### **A. Projected lifetime of enhancement**

This enhancement will last 20+ years with routine maintenance.

### **B. Person(s) responsible for i.-iv. Implementation, Installation, Maintenance & Operation**

Professor John Gargano will implement, install, maintain, operate and teach students safe and proper operation of the requested kiln. The kiln will be housed in the Kiln Room at Fletcher Hall and is compatible with our current electrical infrastructure.

#### **Training (with qualifications)**

John Gargano is a Full Professor at the University, with over 27 years of experience building and maintaining ceramics equipment and kilns

### **C. Equipment Budget and Justification**

#### **1. Skutt KMT-1627-3PK**

208v three phase, 76 amp, 18.5 cubic foot kiln

This is kiln is designed for computer controlled high fire operation.

QTY: 1      Price: \$6,604      Total: \$6,604      Shipping: see other

#### **2. Furniture Kit**

(8)-1" 1227 half

(8)-1" 13x16  
5 post kits

This furniture is the proper size to allow ceramic pieces to be loaded into the kiln.  
Shelves and posts are necessary to safely and effectively fire a kiln.

QTY: 1      Price: \$1305.00      Total: \$1305.00      Shipping: see other

### 3. Lid Lifter with Rolling Stand

This enables safe lifting of the large heavy lid to ensure longevity and ease for all students and faculty. Includes rolling base for ease in moving kiln for maintenance and cleaning.

QTY: 1      Price: \$1075.00      Total: \$1075.00      Shipping: see other

---

## Budget Proposal

---

1.	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 6,604.00</b>	Skutt KMT-1627-3PK,
		<b>\$ 1305.00</b>	Furniture Kit
		<b>\$ 1075.00</b>	Lid Lifter with Rolling Stand

2.	<b>Software</b>	<b>\$0</b>
----	-----------------	------------

3.	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$0</b>
----	-----------------	------------

4.	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$0</b>
----	--------------------	------------

5.	Personnel	\$0	
6.	Other	\$500.00	Shipping

---

**TOTAL:** **\$9,484.00**

### **Additional Information**

#### **Previous STEP Funding**

STEP Grant, Fall 2017 Cycle, Ceramics Decal Printer, \$16,892.40, PI  
STEP Grant, Fall 2017 Cycle, Pugmill for Ceramics Studio, \$6,581.00, PI  
STEP Grant, Fall 2017 Cycle, Computer Controlled Test Kiln, \$1,202.00, PI  
STEP Grant, Emergency 2020 Cycle, Technology Enhancement for Social Distance  
Teaching in Studio/Lab, \$2,401.76, PI