

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Improving WiFi in Burke-Hawthorne Hall

Title

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Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

CODI, CMCN

Organization

Title: Improving WiFi in Burke-Hawthorne Hall Date: 07/15/2022
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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this STEP grant is to update the WiFi system in Burke-Hawthorne Hall. This upgrade would significantly impact the learning experience of students in Communicative Disorders (CODI), community clientele with speech-language and learning disabilities who participate in the training of CODI undergraduate and graduate students, Communication, (CMCN) and Theater (THEA) programs and KRVS. With 1000 students calling Burke-Hawthorne their home (575 in CMCN; 300 in CODI; 90 in THEA; including 120 masters and 21 PhD students), the needs of these students are varied and ever increasing. With the Internet of Things (IOT) making its way into classrooms, clinics and performances, the need for upgraded WiFi is imperative.

As noted, a significant number of students in Burke-Hawthorne are in graduate programs including at least 21 PhD students in the Applied Language and Speech Sciences program (CODI). This makes this program *one of the five largest in the US*. The master's program in CODI is the *most competitive graduate program* on campus, and the CMCN program is *growing significantly in numbers and stature*. Additionally, the number of people entering Burke-Hawthorne Hall for live performances in the Burke-Hawthorne auditorium, the significant numbers coming to KRVS, and approximately 500 clients each year attending the Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic many of whom rely on telepractice and speech-generating devices to communicate (all housed in Burke Hawthorne), put an added strain on the current capacity of the system. This current upgrade should meet the needs of all these students and community partners for the next 5-7 years, which is the projected lifespan of this equipment. UL Lafayette's Information and Media Networks department will manage the project and be responsible for installing and maintaining all equipment.

- 1. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole:** The purpose of this STEP grant application is to improve the quality and availability for the WiFi network in Burke-Hawthorne Hall. Burke-Hawthorne Hall is home to three programs and is frequently visited by many members of the community. The needs for each program are unique but add to the overall quality and diversity of education at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The first of the three academic programs housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall is the Department of Communicative Disorders (CODI) which includes baccalaureate and master's programs in Communication Disorders and a PhD program in Applied Language and Speech Sciences (ALSS). The master's program in CODI is the most competitive graduate program on this campus and has between 75-80 students at all times. This shows significant growth over the past 10 years and will continue to expand. Both Money Magazine and the US Department of Labor list this field as one of the top 25 over the next decade. The needs of this highly competitive program include the downloading and streaming of secure videos related to clinical training practices. These downloads often overwhelm the current system and make clinical teaching extremely difficult. In addition, the PhD program in ALSS is one of the five largest PhD programs in this field in the United States. Advanced needs of training and research tools are currently limited with the current WiFi system. If the needs of this advanced degree are to be met, an upgrade in the WiFi system is amongst the most glaring needs.

The CODI Speech, Language, and Hearing Center has become a leader and a collaborator with both the community and the students at this university. Approximately 300 CODI undergraduate students and 101 graduate students work with members of the greater Acadiana community and other university departments (e.g., nursing, child and family studies, early childhood education, counseling and psychology) to train as educators and allied health professionals. Throughout the calendar year over 500 caregivers, clients, and community professionals attend weekly assessment and therapy sessions, support groups, and training sessions alongside our undergraduate and graduate students. Given the pandemic and advances in technology, our clinic has seen major growth in the need for telepractice sessions and the integration of speech-generating technology for both our clients and students. Telepractice sessions have allowed our reach to extend to both students and clients throughout the state of Louisiana who are looking for services and professional growth. It has also allowed other departments to easily learn from our students/faculty and share in educating students from a variety of disciplines. Speech-generating devices have allowed clients who have suffered acquired and/or developmental disabilities a voice where before they had none. All of this innovation and learning competes with our current wi-fi capabilities and limits the students and clients we serve. Weak WiFi signals add stress to students who are striving to help others and gain highly employable professional skills.

The second program housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall is the Department of Communication (CMCN). CMCN has a vast area of needs with 58 students in Advertising, 113 in Broadcasting, 45 in Journalism, 201 in Public Relations, 55 in Organizational Communication, and 14 in Mass Communication. This is in addition to 45 graduate students in CMCN. The needs of the Department of Communication include staying current with the latest technology and processes ... including utilizing The Internet of Things in their curriculum. Gone are the days when technology is banned

from the classroom. In fact, in some classes it is requested that the students do live commenting via Moodle during class ... resulting in the need for 18 - 75 (depending on the classroom) students using their devices to access the current WiFi system simultaneously for course-related activities. The current WiFi system cannot support this type of interactive instruction.

The third program Housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall are Theater (THEA) with its related field of Dance. The needs of this program require simultaneous access to music, scripts, stage designs, directions and other theatrical information in live time as events and practices are occurring. The 90 students in these departments put additional stress on the already limited current WiFi system. Beyond the academic departments housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall, there are significant numbers of community partners that regularly visit this building on a daily basis. These visitors include guests to KRVS, which is also housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall, guests for performances at the Burke-Hawthorne Auditorium, and daily visitors to the Speech and Hearing Clinic housed on the second floor of Burke-Hawthorne Hall.

This combination of competitive, rigorous and growing academic departments, with the unique opportunity to bring visitors to campus through the various activities taking place within Burke-Hawthorne Hall should make this upgrade a priority for the STEP program for students at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

2. **Projected lifetime of enhancement:** With normal use and maintenance, this upgrade should last a minimum of 5-7 years and should only require upgrades as technology improves and programs grow.
3. **Person responsible for Implementation, Installation, Maintenance and Operation:** Allen Latour through his association with IT and the College of Liberal Arts. Mr. Latour has extensive expertise and experience within this realm, along with support from IT at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.
4. **Justification:** The justification for this proposal is include in the narrative (above) and within the budget proposal below. The equipment needs and budget were prepared by UL's Information and Media Networks.

Budget Proposal

1.	Equipment	\$128,000 - Wireless Access Points, Switches, Data Runs, Optics, Battery Backups, Installation, Maintenance & Software. The project estimate was received from IMN.
2.	Software	\$
3.	Supplies	\$
4.	Maintenance	\$
5.	Personnel	\$
6.	Other	\$
TOTAL:		\$128,000

PREVIOUSLY FUNDED STEP GRANTS:

Phil Auter

- **\$89,468 UL Student Government Association Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant.** (2009). Written to outfit two labs (one PC and one Mac) for new Burke-Hawthorne Hall. Chief Investigator: Louis Diemert. Co-Investigators: Phil Auter, Aurora Auter, Mike Gervais.
- **\$18,200 UL Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) Grant.** (Spring 2004). Supplementary grant provide by the UL Student Government Association STEP program for hardware, software, and facilities upgrades to complete \$85,000 grant-funded project awarded Fall 2003. Additional funding required due to increases in hardware and room renovation costs. Chief Investigator: Prof. William R. Davie. Co-investigators, Phil Auter, Chief Engineer Michael Gervais.
- **\$85,000 UL Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) Grant.** (Fall 2003). Grant obtained from Student Government Association STEP program for hardware, software, and facilities upgrades to bring department in line with industry standards in digital nonlinear video editing, streaming media, and DVD authoring. The result is an eight workstation state of the art digital media post-production lab. Chief Investigator: Prof. William R. Davie. Co-investigators, Phil Auter, Chief Engineer Michael Gervais.

Allen Latour

- Spring 2022: V.L. Wharton Hall Editing Suite Computer Replacement and Distance Learning Access
- Summer 2020: Burke-Hawthorn Hall Computer Lab Computer Replacement for Remote Learning
- Spring 2019: Audio Online Instruction and Annex Wireless Access Point
- Fall 2018: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Fall 2018: H.L. Griffin 106 Computer Classroom PC Replacement
- Spring 2018: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Spring 2018: HLG 106 & 307 SMART Transformation
- Fall 2017: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Fall 2017: Cognitive PSYC Instructional & Experimental Lab Upgrade
- Spring 2017: HLG 315 SMART Transformation
- Spring 2017: Modern Languages (MODL) TEC Classrooms
- Spring 2017: Smart Classroom Equipment for HL Griffin 422 Auditorium
- Spring 2017: Two SMART Classrooms for the Dept. of English
- Fall 2016: Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement,
- Fall 2016: V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement
- Fall 2016: Two SMART Classrooms For the Dept. of English
- Fall 2016: MODL TEC Classrooms
- Spring 2016: Communication Department Mac Lab Update
- Spring 2016: History, Geography and Philosophy TEC Classrooms
- Fall 2015: Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke Hawthorne Hall
- Spring 2015: New PSYC Instructional, Testing, & Experimental Lab Upgrade
- Fall 2014: H.L. Griffin 307 Computer Classroom PC Replacement
- Fall 2014: PSYC Instructional, Testing, and Experimental Lab
- Spring 2013: FGM 101 Interactive Classroom Enhancement