UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

KRVS HD2 Student Radio Station

Title

Karl Fontenot

Name of Submitter

(Faculty or Staff Only)

KRVS Public Media

Organization

Title: KRVS HD2 Student Radio Station Date: 7/12/2023

Name (Contact Person): Karl Fontenot
Address: Burke-Hawthorne Hall, room 145
Phone Number: 337-482-5892 Email: karl.fontenot@louisiana.edu
Department/College/Org: KRVS

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

KRVS proposes to create a student radio station. KRVS has been doing outreach over the past few months to garner student interest and student involvement to produce programming desired by and for students. KRVS Public Media has been in existence since 1963. That means this is the 60th year UL Lafayette has had a radio station. With today's advancement in technology, KRVS has launched multicasting on FM radio which is considered HD. Multicasting enables KRVS to run three different radio signals within one frequency. For KRVS, that frequency is 88.7FM. We broadcast at 100,000 watts of power from 1243 feet atop the TV-10 tower north of Crowley, LA. This means an HD2 signal achieves the same power and coverage as the main signal of KRVS. The only requirement to receive an HD2 signal is to have an HD Radio or listen to it using the free KRVS app for iOS & Android, or directly from the KRVS website. KRVS has already purchased and implemented the equipment needed to enable the HD2 signal broadcast. What we are asking for in this grant request is funding to build out an HD2 student radio control room studio that will interface with the existing KRVS system. We will repurpose a room within KRVS for the HD2 control room. We hope to find more funding to hire two students to act as student "station managers". Although we project a 5 year plan, we plan to keep this station on the air in perpetuity.

Description:

Purpose of the grant and impact to student body.

The purpose of the grant is to create a student operated / student run radio station for broadcast and streaming. It will be housed with the current UL Lafayette radio station, KRVS. The KRVS staff will train and oversee all technical details to keep it running smoothly. This will provide the students its' own voice over the airwaves and internet. The KRVS goals are to have student announcers live on-air especially just as classes end and until after classes begin every day. This allows the most up-to-date information to be disseminated to the students in real time. Students will be able to tune in with an HD Radio, phone with iOS or Android operating system via the free KRVS app or the web stream on the KRVS webpage. This service will give "voice" to the student's desires for the contemporary music desires and current information provided by students or by UL-Lafayette.

Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5 years initially and we will keep this running in perpetuity.

a. Person(s) responsible for
    i. **Implementation:** Karl Fontenot, chief engineer and Kris Wotipka, operations director, KRVS
    ii. **Installation:** Karl Fontenot, chief engineer and Kris Wotipka, operations director
    iii. **Maintenance:** Karl Fontenot, chief engineer,
    iv. **Operation:** Two student station managers trained by KRVS, then they oversee student producers who are also the on-air talent.
    v. **Training (with qualifications):** Karl Fontenot, chief engineer of KRVS has 38 years of experience in broadcast radio and television in production and engineering.
    vi. **STEP Plan Alignment:** SLO-5 – Create marketable graduates through a comprehensive employment plan.
    SLE 5.1 – Develop a Student Employment Plan with Human Resources.
    SLE 5.2 – Improve student success through engagement in high impact practices. These student positions will be career centric and provide students with opportunities to gain "real-life" experience before graduation.

Narrative

KRVS is proposing a student radio/streaming station to be managed and run by student productions on KRVS HD2. KRVS Public Media has launched HD multicasting. That enables KRVS to broadcast three audio signals on the frequency of 88.7FM and is available to anyone with an HD Radio, the free KRVS app and the KRVS webpage. While KRVS has already purchased and installed the infrastructure to enable multicasting of HD2/3, we need funding to build out the on-air control room for a student run radio station to be housed in KRVS. KRVS is located in Burke-Hawthorne Hall. We will repurpose a room within KRVS to create the student run radio station. As we try to secure funding to hire two student station managers, KRVS will continue its outreach to the students who wish to be producers/announcers for programs. Below will detail the equipment needed to build a professional on-air control system that will enable students to work on a system that is the most up to date with the current radio industry. That will enable students who learn the system to be "job ready" if they wish to work in the radio industry upon graduation from UL Lafayette.

Equipment needed:

1. On-Air Control Board Wheatstone IP-12
    a. This is used to control the inputs and outputs to go "on the air" or to record audio for later playback.
2. Audio Interface Unit Wheatstone IP-88-D3
    a. This will multiplex all audio from the control into a single fiber transport into the main KRVS routing system to enable the audio to be sent to the transmitter site. This will also reduce overall cabling costs by using a single fiber.
3. Audio Input/output Unit Wheatstone M4IP-USB
    a. This will enable any student who wishes to playback audio from a computer, laptop… with a usb port to plug directly into the system and play the music of their choice.
4. On Air Control Desk Wheatstone QL2PKG3-SIT-FM
    a. This will be a durable desk to hold all the equipment needed for use in the student radio station control room. It has rack mount storage for equipment and ample desktop work space to accommodate most any need the student producer requires.
5. Speaker Monitors Adam A7V speakers
    a. These are used to monitor the on-air playback to ensure signal is being sent from the control room to the transmitter system.
6. Speaker Isolation Pads Auralex MoPAD-XL speaker isolation pads
    a. This will keep any sound and/or vibration from interfering with audio signals.
7. Computer/Television monitors 42" television with HDMI and/or VGA inputs
    a. These will be wall mounted to see the audio metering and current UL Lafayette information that can be read on-air.
8. Wall mounts for the above 42" tv monitors
9. Adobe Creative Cloud subscription (5 yr. projection)
    a. This is used to record and edit audio to be used on-air.
10. Microphones for on-air announcing.
    a. These are used for the talking on air and for recording.
11. Microphone preamps.
    a. These are what interface the microphone into the on-air console.
12. Cabling. Miscellaneous cabling for Ethernet, audio and data.
13. Headphone amp: Presonus HP60 headphone amp and Shure SRH240A-BK headphones.
    a. Used to monitor audio for audition and while speaking on microphone.

14. Radio automation system. Rivendell automation system to record and playback all audio, automatically retrieve audio files from other sources. It will interface with our existing satellite system and data infrastructure to move audio around as needed.

Budget Proposal

1.	**Equipment**	**$36,932.00** $28,432.00 Wheatstone IP12 console, Wheatstone Blade interface units, Wheatstone console furniture, Wheatstone IP drivers $800.00 Adam A7V speaker monitors $50.00 Auralex MoPAD-XL speaker isolation pads

		$500.00 42” tv/computer monitors $100.00 wall mounts for above tv’s $1,500.00 Microphones, preamps and mic booms $400.00 Presonus HP60 headphone amp $150.00 Shure SRH-240A-BK headphones $5000.00 Rivendell radio automation system
2.	**Software**	**$1440.00** Adobe Creative Cloud Subscription $288/yr at 5 yr projected plan equals $1440.00
3.	**Supplies**	**$500.00** Cabling and miscellaneous supplies
4.	**Maintenance**	**$0.**
5.	**Personnel**	**$0**
6.	**Other**	**$0**
TOTAL:		**$38,872.00**

Previous STEP Funding:
KRVS received a STEP grant in the spring 2018 round. It was titled KRVS and UL TV production. With that grant, KRVS has helped produce video for the UL athletic department and with the help of students from the Moving Image Arts program we produced several music videos in the KRVS studio. We also did live streaming events for the UL School of Music with the Traditional Music program. We’ve also used that equipment for the Ragin’ Records program and the UL Lafayette Kampus FM video projects as well.