UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Audio Annex Internet Connectivity and Wireless Access Point

Title

Dr. Michael Gervais, Allen Latour, & Dr. Bill Davie

> Name of Submitter (Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of Communication

Organization

Title:	Audio A	nnex Inte	rnet Connectivity and Wireless	Date:	1/12/18	
	Access I	Point				
Name (Contact Person):			Dr. Michael Gervais			
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Department/College/Org:			College of Liberal Arts, Department of Communication			

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this STEP grant is to install wired Internet access to the Communication Department's Audio Annex. The Audio Annex is likely the only building utilized on the main campus without any type of Internet connectivity, and the solution proposed here would serve students in multiple majors. Further, a wireless access point would not only benefit students using the Audio Annex, but enhance wireless connectivity for students who frequently congregate in the areas outside of the Student Union.

Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

This grant aims to install hardwired Internet networking capability in the Audio Annex. In addition to hardwired networking for the existing desktop computers, a wireless access point would be installed to help overcome weak signals outside of the nearest buildings: Burke-Hawthorne Hall, V. L. Wharton Hall, and the Student Union.

The Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex is likely the only building utilized by students, faculty and staff without any type of Internet connection. The current facility has four digital audio production suites used to create in-class projects. Without Internet connectivity, the computer operating system, virus protection, and other software is usually updated manually once per semester. This isolation makes the computers vulnerable to computer viruses and system crashes. Without Internet connections, the students and faculty cannot access the university's WIN network with their CLID/ULID and must rely on a shared local log-on username and password for all computers. This not only creates privacy and security issues, but also makes cheating much easier. Also, students have no way of uploading audio projects for feedback and evaluation of their instructors and have to resort to burning projects to CDs. There are currently three Broadcasting sequence classes within the Department of Communication utilizing the Audio Annex: two sections of CMCN-250 and CMCN-357, and one Advertising class, CMCN-342, for a class assignment during the semester. The total class size using the facility is approximately 50 students per semester. Although the main classes are required for Broadcasting students, the class has been taken as an elective by students from other disciplines, including Public Relations, Music, and Moving Image Arts.

In addition to the hardwired connections, a proposed wireless access point will also be installed. This would not only benefit the students and faculty using the Audio Annex who have their own laptops, tablets, or smart phones, it would benefit the students and faculty in the area surrounding the Audio Annex. The scene attractions and busy student area make this a popular meeting spot, but one without adequate wireless connectivity due to the dead zone between Burke-Hawthorne Hall, V. L. Wharton Hall, the Student Union, and the swamp.

Because there has never been any computer networking in the Audio Annex, it will require a complete installation from the service access point, underground wiring, routers, and network jacks.

Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5 – 6 years

Person(s) responsible for

Implementation: Dr. Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Installation: Information and Media Networks, with the assistance of Dr. Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Maintenance: Dr. Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Operation: Students utilizing the Audio Annex will use the hardwired equipment and students in the vicinity can use the wireless Internet access point.

Training (with qualifications): No training required.

Discuss all previous funded STEP projects: The Department of Communication recently received a Fall 2016 grant, "V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement" for \$37,150 and "Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement, SPSS Software Renewal, & Vision Pro Software Installation" for \$23,510 by Gervais, Davie, and Latour. Past awards the department has received include a Fall 2015 STEP grant, "Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke-Hawthorne Hall (117 & 250)," by Gervais for \$36,000 to upgrade to SMART technology in Burke-Hawthorne rooms 250 and 117. The department also received a Fall 2014 grant, "Audio Instructional Lab Upgrade (Burke-Hawthorne Annex)," by Gervais and Davie for \$6,280 to upgrade software and equipment for the audio production labs in the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex.

1.	Equipment	 \$ 1,200: Four (4) network drops \$ 600: One (1) wireless access point \$ 3,500: One (1) network switch \$14,700: Hardline wiring installation from distribution point
2.	Software	\$0
3.	Supplies	\$0
4.	Maintenance	\$0
5.	Personnel	\$0
6.	Other	\$0
ТОТА	L:	\$20,000