

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AT LAFAYETTE**

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Title

**Audio Online Instruction and Annex Wireless Access
Point**

Name of Submitter: *(Faculty or Staff Only)*

**Dr. Michael Gervais, Dr. Bill Davie, Dr.
Patricia Holmes, Patricio Salinas, & Allen
Latour**

Department of Communication

Organization

Title: Audio Annex Internet Connectivity and Wireless Date: 1/8/19
Access Point

Name (Contact Person): Dr. Michael Gervais

Address: Department of Communication

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Department/College/Org: College of Liberal Arts, Department of Communication

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The vision of this STEP grant is to install wired Internet access to upgrade the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex for contemporary instruction. This small brick building has been used for audio instruction, but has always lacked Internet connectivity and it is handicapped in offering up-to-date digital audio instruction. This proposal would serve classes in multiple majors and enhance the campus facility with a wireless access point linking students in and around the Audio Annex with Internet access between the Student Union, V.L. Wharton and Burke-Hawthorne Halls.

I. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

This grant aims to install an overdue Internet networking facility for the Audio Annex, necessary for audio production techniques such as podcasting and live streaming. In addition to hardwired networking for the existing desktop computers, a wireless access point would be installed to help overcome weak signals between the nearest university structures, thus establishing connectivity between Burke-Hawthorne Hall, V. L. Wharton Hall, and the Student Union.

The Audio Annex has four digital audio production suites used to create in-class projects, but it has been lagging behind in audio instruction due to its incapacity to use online channels for digital downloads, uploads, and podcasts. There are other issues resulting from this lack of online facility. Without Internet connectivity, the computer operating system, virus protection, and other software must be updated manually once per semester. This online isolation makes the computers vulnerable to computer viruses and system crashes. Without Internet connection, classes of students and faculty cannot access the university's UWIN network with their CLID/ULID and must rely on a shared local log-on username and password for all computers. This incapacity not only creates privacy and security issues, but also makes cheating easier. In addition, students have no way of uploading audio projects for feedback and evaluation of their instructors and must resort to outmoded techniques, like burning projects to CDs.

Three communication classes in the past used the Annex for various types of audio production including sections of the introductory audio class (CMCN 250), a Broadcast Newswriting lab (CMCN 357), and an Advertising class, (CMCN 342). Even though the introductory audio production class is required for Mass Communication/Broadcasting majors, students from other degree programs, including Public Relations, Music, and Moving Image Arts, have also used the facility. The curriculum needs to move forward in new technology by introducing more online audio production. Without Internet connectivity, this curricular vision cannot be realized and online audio production is impossible.

In addition to the hardwired connections, a proposed wireless access point would be installed on the exterior of the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex. This hub would not only benefit the students and faculty using the Audio Annex who have their own laptops, tablets, or smartphones, it also would benefit the students and faculty surrounding the Audio Annex. Since this area is a social gathering spot for students and faculty interested in visiting Cypress Lake, or just relaxing for a few moments under the trees. Making wireless fidelity accessible around the exterior spaces would be an additional benefit for campus traffic.

Finally, because there is no computer networking in the Audio Annex, the proposal does require a complete installation from the service access point, underground wiring, routers, network jacks, and a WiFi access point to become viable.

Justification for the proposed equipment is as follows:

1. Four (4) network drops: There are four (4) audio recording booths in the Audio Annex. Each network drop would connect to an existing Windows-based computer containing the audio editing software (Adobe Audition).
2. One (1) wireless access point: The wireless access point (WiFi) would be used to access the Internet for all students, faculty, and staff near the vicinity of the Audio Annex once their personal laptop, tablet, or smartphone has been registered through the university's Network Registration (NetReg).
3. One (1) network switch: The network switch is required to split the incoming hardwired Ethernet cable to reach the four (4) desktop computers housed in the Audio Annex.

4. Hardline wiring installation from distribution point: The underground hardline wiring is necessary from the closest building because the Audio Annex currently does not have any Internet service.

II. Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5 – 6 years

III. Person(s) responsible for:

1. **Implementation:** Dr. Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.
2. **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.
3. **Maintenance:** Dr. Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.
4. **Operation:** Students utilizing the Audio Annex will use the hardwired equipment and students in the vicinity can use the wireless Internet access point.
5. **Training (with qualifications):** No training required.

IV. 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.

Budget Proposal

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**

TOTAL: **\$20,000**