

# **UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE**

**STEP Committee**

**Technology Fee Application**

**Burke-Hawthorne Hall Computer Lab and  
V. L. Wharton Hall Editing Suite Computer  
Replacement**

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Title

**Mr. Patricio Salinas,  
Dr. Michael Gervais,  
Dr. William Davie and  
Mr. Allen Latour**

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Name of Submitter  
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

**Department of Communication**

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Organization

Title: Burke-Hawthorne Hall Computer Lab and V. L. Wharton Date: 01-14-2020  
Hall Editing Suite Computer Replacement  
Name (Contact Person): Patricio J. Salinas  
Address: Burke-Hawthorne Hall, Room 121  
Phone Number: 337-482-6141 Email: patricio.salinas@louisiana.edu  
Department/College/Org: College of Liberal Arts, Department of Communication

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

**The objective of this application is to purchase 30 Apple computers for students at University of Louisiana at Lafayette to meet the requirement of working with new hardware that will meet current demands of their work-flow, especially in terms of video production, graphic design and online production that requires Internet research. Currently, the Department of Communication has maintained Apple computers that date back to 2012 long past their 5-year lifespan. Apple has advised consumers that support for these computers will be discontinued this summer. This predicament will render the hardware obsolete and opens the door to a variety of hazards –from viruses to issues of intellectual property. Thus, their replacement is imperative.**

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

The Department of Communication is responsible for teaching creative production in video, layout and graphic design, and other content areas making it essential that the computer labs and desktop areas be equipped with the latest hardware and software available. In 2012, the Department of Communication obtained 30 Apple computers that were purchased with a Board of Regents Support Fund grant. Unfortunately, Apple will discontinue technical support for these facilities this summer (2020). This development requires a prompt response since the workstations are at the point of expiration at the end of their fifth year. The Apple computers housed in Burke Hawthorne Hall and V.L. Wharton Hall are nearing the point where they can no longer accept updated software; and, more to the point the computers are more susceptible to viruses possibly rendering them permanently out of commission.

In precise terms, there are 19 computers housed in Burke-Hawthorne Hall 140. The additional 11 computers are housed in V. L. Wharton Hall (323, 324 and 325). Multiple classes use these computers, with a majority of them completing assignments for the Broadcasting major. Students in production-based classes typically are expected to produce three video projects per semester using these workstations. In addition, students from other majors including Journalism, Strategic Communication, Advertising, and Moving Image Arts are also assigned to use these facilities for their class projects.

Acquiring Apple computers is also necessary since the unit has 30 Final Cut Pro X editing licenses. As students in these majors develop their multimedia skill sets, having new computers will facilitate their growth in learning skills in producing professional quality video, text, and graphics projects. In addition, students from Strategic Communication, Advertising, and other non-broadcasting classes can also benefit from the computers and editing software, as their portfolios require video components with motion graphics. As noted, the facilities are fully licensed for use with the editing software which is regularly updated with the latest versions and comes without any cost of an annual subscription. Without having to purchase the latest version of Final Cut Pro, which now charges a yearly subscription fee, purchasing these new Apple computers will save the university that would be allocated for annual subscriptions. This cost savings is contingent on having computers to update through this proposed acquisition. This lifeline of computer acquisition is a win-win situation for this reason and others.

These 30 Apple computers will benefit students of at least three units – Moving Image Arts (English), Music Business (Music), and Communication. The computers will benefit these majors and disciplines outside of Communication using video components and software applications. Nineteen of the computers will be located in the Burke-Hawthorne computer labs, which is used by several different classes each semester in addition to serving students in open lab hours. By opening the computer labs to these students, our graduates will be competitive and well versed in Final Cut Pro X. This editing software has a user-friendly interface and is a popular video editing platform used by professionals in the broadcasting and film industry. As the demand for video content grows in all fields, these editing computer workstations are the center-point to acquire such valuable skills, and there are at least five MIA/CMCN professors and instructors who are adept at teaching video editing skills working with qualified graduate assistants to monitor the editing labs to achieve the next level of media production.

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

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

**Operation:** Department of Communication students and faculty will use the computers. In addition, students from other departments as well as undergraduates choose certain production courses as their communication elective.

**Training (with qualification):** Not Applicable

**Discuss all previous funded STEP projects:** In Fall of 2016, the Department of Communication updated Burke-Hawthorne Hall Classroom 250 with PC Computer and Printer Replacement. In addition, to the SPSS Software Renewal and Vision Pro Software Installation. The amount awarded was \$23,5000. In Spring of 2019, the Department of Communication was awarded two grants in the amount of \$20,000 for Audio Online Instruction and Annex Wireless Access Point (in order to provide internet services for audio production classes being taught in there). In addition, \$2, 235.00 was awarded for the Phantom 4 Pro Maintenance (warranty for video production drones – used by both Communication and Moving Image Arts students).

## Budget Proposal

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1.     **Equipment**                   **\$55,470: 30 industry standard 21.5-inch iMac with Retina 4K display. 3.0GHZ 6-core 8<sup>th</sup>-generation Intel Core i5 processor, Turbo Boost up to 4.1 GHz. 16GB 2666MHz DDR4 Onboard Memory. 512 GB SSD storage. Radeon Pro 560X with 4GB GDDR5 memory.**

**\$3,570: AppleCare+ for iMac for the 30 computers.**

2.     **Software**                   **\$**

3.     **Supplies**                   **\$**

4.     **Maintenance**           **\$**

5.     **Personnel**               **\$**

6.     **Other**                   **\$**

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**TOTAL:**                           **\$ 59,040.00**