# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

## STEP Committee

## Technology Fee Application

**Audio Instructional Lab Computer Upgrade (Burke-Hawthorne Annex)**

Title

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

Name of Submitter
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

**Department of Communication**

Organization

Title:     Audio Instructional Lab Computer Upgrade (Burke-        Date:     12/4/23
           Hawthorne Annex)

Name (Contact Person):        Michael Gervais

Address:     Department of Communication

Phone Number:        2-6107                        Email:     mgervais@louisiana.edu

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

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

        This grant seeks to replace four outmoded workstation computers, purchased in 2015, located in the Burke-Hawthorne audio instructional lab located in an annex building southeast of Burke-Hawthorne Hall. This audio production laboratory is divided into four studios for use by majors in Communication and Moving Image Arts programs, along with students in English, Visual Arts, and other programs, who have been assigned or elected to enroll in courses in audio production. All four workstations in the lab have exceeded the five-years of service specified for computers like these units on campus. Because this grant will upgrade those PC workstations with new audio production software, it will bring the laboratory facilities and experience up to standards required by professionals in radio, television, multimedia, and moving image arts.  It will give students an opportunity to learn the best practices and essential skills they need to be competitive in their media careers after graduation.

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

     This grant proposes to replace four Dell PCs, purchased in 2015, that are located in the four studio booths in the Audio Annex. Because these workstations have, as noted, exceeded the five-year life span specified for computer units such as these on campus, they are now susceptible to viruses and hardware failure. Students across major disciplines rely on this audio production laboratory to complete their assigned audio projects throughout the year, making the PC unit replacements an imperative. Students and faculty report the outmoded units are showing exhaustion and failing to perform certain basic functions. Startup time and program access has slowed due to the outdated moving hard drives. There even have been instances when students have simply clicked "save" to keep an audio project, and that click has caused the workstations to freeze and crash. The resulting delays in repairs and project completion due to these issues add to the urgency of this grant proposal. Newer, solid-state disk drives will perform audio functions more smoothly, operate editing software efficiently, and avoid crashing in production.

     Besides the Audio Annex being used for college credit courses, the Department of Communication has partnered up with the federally funded Upward Bound program. The summer enrollment program of Upward Bound was taught by one of the department's assistant professors, Mr. Patricio Salinas. This past summer, 12 high school students enrolled in a podcasting class that was housed in the Audio Annex, utilizing all of the audio production equipment. Students were taught the basics of audio engineering and fused it with their original audio programming. Each student was responsible for four episodes during their six-week enrollment period. Apart from doing the production, students studied specific trends in the podcast industry.

     Students from multiple departments, including majors in CMCN/BCST, Moving Image Arts (MIA), Visual Arts, English, and School of Music, along with the CMCN master's program have made, and will make effective use of this instructional laboratory upon approval of this application. The Burke-Hawthorne audio production laboratory has made a positive impact on student success throughout the College of Liberal Arts and other majors by facilitating competitive entries in academic conferences, such as those entering the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC), and sports entries from the athletic department taking advantage of this laboratory for sports promotions. These four studio labs even have served as a training ground for high school students over the summer. Consider the particular classes in liberal arts and fine arts that stand to benefit from this acquisition.

**CMCN/BCST – Direct Impact**
- CMCN 250 Audio Production (companion lab and portfolio)
- CMCN 450 Podcasting (companion lab and portfolio)
- CMCN 469 Digital Media Convergence (prerequisites and portfolio)
- CMCN 595 Professional Project
- CMCN 597-598 Directed Individual Study

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC – Indirect Impact**
- MUS 276 Intro to Music Technology (3)
- MUS 377 Audio Recording Techniques II (3)
- MUS 422 Live Sound & Postproduction(3)
- MUS 438 Film Scoring I (3)
- MUS 439 Film Scoring II (3)

**VISUAL ARTS – Indirect Impact**
- VIAR 309 Sound Design Workshop (3)

**Projected lifetime of enhancement:**  5 – 6 years

**Person(s) responsible for:**

      **Implementation:**  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 faculty and their students, including students from other disciplines, will utilize this equipment. There will possibly be other classes using the facilities for various purposes.

**Training (with qualifications):**  No training is required.

**Discuss all previous funded STEP projects:** The Communication Department received a STEP grant in Spring 2019, "Audio Online Instruction and Annex Wireless Access Point" by Gervais, Davie, Holmes, Salinas, and Latour for $20,000 for the installation of internet to all workstations and a ULink wireless access point; Fall 2016, "Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement, SPSS Software Renewal, & Vision Pro Software Installation" by Gervais, Latour, & Davie for $23,510 for the replacement of computers, printer, and software; 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. And 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.

**Timeline / Implementation Schedule:**

Spring 2024, end of semester:  Place computer, printer, and software order.
Summer 2024, early-semester:  Estimated arrival of items ordered.
Summer 2024, mid-semester:  installation of all equipment.
Fall 2024:  new computers used in classes by faculty and students.

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| 1. | **Equipment** | **$5,592:  Four (4) Dell Optiplex Plus 7000 desktop PC computers**<br>**$840:  Four (4) Dell 24" HD monitors** |
| 2. | **Software** | **$0** |
| 3. | **Supplies** | **$0** |
| 4. | **Maintenance** | **$0** |
| 5. | **Personnel** | **$0** |
| 6. | **Other** | **$0** |

**TOTAL:**                        **$6,432**