

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Enhancing Student Wellness Through Smart  
Video Technology

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Title

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**Department of Counselor  
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## Organization

Title: Enhancing Student Wellness Through Smart Video Technology      Date: 7/7/15

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Department/College/Org: Counselor Education/College of Education

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

The demand accompanying the role of student leaders stretches their time, attention, and resources between the administration they report to and the students that they serve. Besides the internal validation they may experience and external recognition they may receive, student leaders are left with few resources that can replenish the mental and emotional energy that they expend. This leads to unresolved feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression, which can negatively impact leadership and academic performance, that particularly affects young adults. Though Counseling and Testing, located on main campus, does serve UL students, faculty, and staff, student leaders face the unique barriers associated with seeking therapy within the very environment that creates, or intensifies, their discomfort. The Department of Counselor Education (DCE), located within the Picard Center on South Campus, offers an environment conducive to student leaders being able to fully release their leadership roles and completely decompress. This environmental dynamic facilitates effective therapy. Due to the DCE's location, student leaders do not have to guard themselves from the potential concerns of the general student population witnessing them seeking therapy. The privacy, and the removal from a triggering environment, makes the DCE an ideal therapeutic resource to student leaders. In addition to that, the DCE offers its services free of charge to residents of the Acadiana region. Therefore, student leaders facing financial obstacles have the opportunity to receive optimal support. Upgrading the DCE's audio and video equipment will significantly assist therapists' ability to meet student leaders' needs.

## **Enhancing Student Wellness Through Smart Video Technology**

### **a. Purpose of the Grant**

The goal of this project is to enhance a 7-room counseling space in which audio and video observation, supervision, and recording capabilities will be utilized to serve undergraduate and graduate students at UL Lafayette and to enhance the learning experience of students enrolled in the Department of Counselor Education. The space consists of 7 treatment rooms, including a play therapy room and two large group counseling rooms. The other rooms can accommodate individuals, couples, families, or small groups. The purpose of this request is to replace obsolete and unreliable software and hardware with more innovative solutions, which are required for effective clinical training, education, and the provision of clinical services to the university community. The architecture of the network is included in Appendix A.

In the course of preparing to work as a professional counselor, graduate students in Counselor Education must complete coursework in several critical knowledge and clinical areas. To remain nationally competitive, the controlled clinical environment is an onsite clinical space equipped with audio and video recording and playback capabilities and added provisions for live supervision. Precise behavioral coding and supervisor comments can be done on digital recordings, allowing for very effective evaluation of the counseling process. The existence of a recording lab helps the department meet the high standards of its national accrediting body. The cutting edge equipment and software we are seeking to acquire would bring the department, its students, and its free services for the university to a new, more effective level and enhance student learning.

### **b. Impact on the Student Body as a Whole**

The impact on the student body is not limited to student leaders. Since the clinic has the capacity to serve any category of students and their families, the impact is truly university-wide. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in four students have a diagnosable illness. Additionally, 40% of students do not seek help, 80% of students feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities, and 50% have been so anxious they struggled in school. We attempt to address these issues at UL by providing free counseling sessions to students, their partners, and their children. Counseling is provided by upper-level graduate students and supervised by doctoral-level faculty. In addition to providing counseling services, the Department of Counselor Education collaborates with multiple departments on campus, including Psychology, Education, and Child and Family Studies. Currently, the technology in the clinic directly benefits students preparing to become licensed counselors, school counselors, psychologists, teachers, students preparing for careers working with children and families, and all students at UL receiving counseling services at the clinic. Upon approval and implementation, the benefits of the needed technological accommodations will ripple through multiple facets of the university.

### **c. Projected Lifetime of Enhancement**

Based on the knowledge and experience we have gained thus far as a result of using our present recording system, we believe the proposed solution is much more cost-efficient due to routine software updates compared to the continuous hardware updates of the present system. The project, inclusive of both a software and a hardware solution, includes yearly maintenance fees covering upgrades and technical support as long as the contract is maintained. The longevity is dependent on the hardware, which consists primarily of cameras, a server, bug-in-ear technology, and microphones that will be covered by manufacturer warranty for a period of 5 years and then will be maintained through normal University and Department procedures. As long as UL Lafayette has a counselor preparation program, the need for such

hardware and software solutions for recording counseling sessions is imperative. The awarding of this proposal is pivotal to all further development and the impact will be felt by UL Lafayette students and their loved ones for many years to come.

#### **d. Persons Responsible**

Much of the infrastructure needed has been accounted for and is already in place. The company, cenergylT/interact, requires one UL official be available while on-site installation is in progress, which has been arranged. The company will be responsible for hardware installation, which is simply cameras with microphones, as well as providing instructions for software installation and update maintenance. This is accounted for in the quote. cenergylT/interact will provide a 5-year service, support, maintenance, and warranty contract as described in the quote. They will also supply initial training in the use of the program and hardware. In subsequent years, this training will be done by faculty and designated graduate assistants.

The operation of the video equipment will be by students and faculty in the Department of Counselor Education who will use it on a daily basis, and also by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. The university has recently provided the Counselor Education Department with three more graduate assistant (GA) positions, which makes seven positions in total. GAs are supervised by doctoral-level Counselor Education faculty and are tasked with maintaining the facilities, overseeing access to the technology and videos, and training other students on the proper and secure use of the technology. One GA position will be designated specifically to the purpose of overseeing the new technology in the clinic. It will be a student coordinated and administered initiative with supervision from faculty.

#### **e. Purpose and Justification of Budget Items**

The cost of the implementation is \$96,916.64 for a fixed-time, fixed-price project. This price includes perpetual licensing of the software package developed by cenergylT/interact for management of video/audio recording and web services of that content. This price also includes the hardware outlined in the attached equipment breakdown, and the professional, on-site services. Support is free for the first year with a cost of \$2,500 per year for the next four years. Support entitles UL to have access to any software upgrades and technical support at no charge. Hardware support is done via warranty of the vendor (i.e., Dell, Axis, etc.).

The following breakdown of costs is accompanied by a statement justifying the expense:

Equipment (\$28,916.64). This category includes the cost for IP cameras, a server, bug-in-ear technology, and microphones. Other items needed will be recycled and reused from pre-existing equipment.

Software (\$50,000.00). This includes the proprietary software along with perpetual licensing and upgrades for an unlimited number of users. The software allows for securely recording, storing, reviewing, editing, and retrieving of videos and provides an effective process for supervisor commentary on recorded material. It encrypts the recordings, facilitating secure student access from personal hand-held electronic devices through the use of a proprietary app, which can be downloaded to students' mobile devices.

Supplies (\$0). No supplies are being requested. All supplies needed to initiate and maintain the project will be extracted from the Department's operating budget.

Maintenance (\$10,000.00). This fee covers years 2-5 of the project. The first year of technical support, maintenance, and warranty is covered in the initial installation. After the fifth year, the value of a long-term maintenance contract will be weighed against existing resources and cost-to-benefit information.

Personnel (\$0). No funding for personnel is requested. A graduate assistant presently allocated to the Department will serve as the system administrator. Operational support for student interns will be provided by faculty in the department (Dr. Esters, Dr. Spruill, Dr. LaFleur, Dr. Bourgeois, and Dr. Hermann) and by other Graduate Assistants already assigned to the Department.

Other (\$8,000.00). This cost category contains costs not accounted for in any other budget category but are necessary for the project. The category includes the installation of the hardware and the configuration of the software for the intended application. It also includes funds for training of department personnel.

## Budget Proposal

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1.	Equipment	\$28,916.64
2.	Software	\$50,000.00
3.	Supplies	\$0
4.	Maintenance	\$10,000.00 (5 years)
5.	Personnel	\$0
6.	Other	\$8,000.00 (Software/Hardware configuration, Installation, Training)
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$96,916.64</b>

# Appendix A

