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Program Title: **Supporting Web-cam access at UWB: A pilot program**

Campus Affiliation: **Nursing Program in collaboration with the Campus Media Center and Information Systems**

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Brief Project Overview

A. The goal of the program or project

The goal of the program is to increase web-cam access for UWB students. The specific aims of this pilot program are to:

- Research and evaluate web-cams for quality of product and ease of use in check out to students, staff, and faculty
- Purchase 30 web-cams for student, staff and faculty use in support of academic activities
- Support students, staff, and faculty in adopting web cams
- Evaluate the pilot program after three quarters for recommendation to Academic Programs and the Campus Media Center (CMC) for on-going support

B. A description of the program and how it will benefit the student body

Web cams are a popular computer communication technology with built-in web-cam capability becoming more and more common. Student access to web-cams at UWB would allow all students to explore and use web-cams in support of their education.

In order for students to connect with staff and faculty via web-cams, the staff and faculty also need access to this technology. While web-cams may become standard on faculty and staff computers in the future as computers are upgraded/replaced, currently this is not the case. Providing staff and faculty access to web-cams will allow them to also explore their use in support of students.

There are two ways that web-cams can benefit the student body. The first is the potential for web-cam appointments with staff and faculty. Students at UWB are frequently on campus for classes one to two days a week, and are often heavily scheduled on these days. Finding time to meet with staff advisors, writing center staff, quantitative skills staff, or faculty is often difficult and frequently requires scheduling meetings on other days, and requiring an additional trip to campus. Having web-cam access to staff advisors and faculty would allow meetings that would not require additional driving to campus and parking costs. Web-cam assisted meetings would need to be scheduled during regular office hours for faculty and staff.

The second way that students can benefit from web-cams is in faculty-directed projects that link students to students in other countries. I am currently working on a project that link UWB students with students in England on joint coursework and research projects. Currently there is video conferencing equipment at UWB that allows and supports joint meetings in real-time to supplement on-line asynchronous communications. The limiting factor here is the 8-hour time difference leaves a very limited time frame for these connections. Web-cams that can be checked out for use off campus will expand the options for these conferences. While my current project links students in nursing and health policy with UK students and faculty, there are other UWB faculty with international connections who could also benefit and support other UWB student partnerships internationally.

C. Specific information about the equipment and/or services being requested

We are requesting funds to purchase web-cams for student/staff/faculty use. Every effort will be made to purchase web-cams that are 1) highest quality, 2) reasonable cost, and 3) easy to use (e.g. a 'plug and play' web cam that doesn't require software installation). Given these parameters, we have selected the **Creative Live – Cam Optia AF** (specification sheet attached), which is both PC and Mac adaptable.

The second part of our request is for hourly staff to support (and evaluate) the pilot project. Every effort will be made to hire a student in this position. The hourly staff will work out of the CMC and report to Dave Snyder. The duties will include developing a mechanism for tracking web-cam use; assisting students, staff, and faculty in web-cam set up; developing user guidelines for web-cam use in the UWB environment; collecting data on the program and assisting in writing the evaluation report. We have budgeted 10 hours per week x 10 weeks per quarter x 3 quarters = 300 hours for the 2008-09 academic year.

D. How the project will be implemented and by whom

The Campus Media Center will order and purchase the web-cams so that they are available beginning fall-08. The hourly worker will be interviewed and hired by Dave Snyder, CMC, Andreas Brockhaus, IS, and Carol Leppa, Nursing. The Hourly worker will need to be technically capable to deal with the web cams and also socially adept at working with and supporting students, staff and faculty.

The web-cam circulation procedures will be worked out to be consistent with current CMC policies (e.g. one-week check-out with renewal depending on demand).

We will also contact the UW Bookstore to see if there is a possibility for a bulk discount on web-cams for student purchase.

Carol Leppa and Andreas Brockhaus will take the lead in contacting staff and faculty to locate willing participants in the pilot program. The Nursing Program is currently involved in delivering courses to a Mount Vernon-based cohort and would be actively involved in the pilot program with both undergraduate and graduate advisors participating. We will also solicit participation from writing center, quantitative skills, and library staff, and potentially student services as well. Faculty will be solicited for participation in offering web-cam office hours as well as interest in support of international linkages projects.

In spring quarter-09, the hourly worker, Dave Snyder, Andreas Brockhaus and Carol Leppa will write an evaluation of the pilot project for recommendation to Academic Services and Program Directors concerning on-going support.

E. What departments will be involved in the installation and support of this project

Initially this project will involve the Campus Media Center and the Nursing Program with support from Information Systems. As the pilot evolves we anticipate potential involvement of the Writing Center, Quantitative Skills Center, Library, and Student Services.

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ITEM (complete description of item, type of product, quantity) *	Unit Cost	Full Cost
30 Web-Cams: Estimate \$100.00/camera x 30 = \$3000.00 Tax & shipping estimate = \$300.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 3,300.00
Hourly Tech Support: 10 hours/week x 10 weeks/quarter x 3 quarters = 300 hours 11.30% benefits (300 hours x \$10/hour = \$3000.00) 11.30% x \$3000.00 = \$339	\$ 3,339.00	\$ 3,339.00
TOTAL		\$ 6,639.00

* This page is a crucial portion of your funding request. Items have to be described in detail, the number of people who this event will serve, quantity and cost of each item, etc. Pricing must be supported by additional documentation from the organization providing the items. Please be specific when listing costs, otherwise your request might not be granted.

The following signatures are required before your application can be considered complete:

Anthony Guerrero, (or designee)
Director, Facility Services

 Date

Comments:

Cynthia Fugate (or designee)
Director, Academic Services

 Date

Comments:
