

Unit Resources including Technology

Northwest holds the distinction of being the nation's first "[electronic campus](#)", by virtue of having the first networked computing system available to all students living on campus and all faculty beginning in 1987. Then Governor John Ashcroft had the honor of flipping the switch, turning on the first campus of its kind in America. Northwest has continued its leadership role in campus technology, with faculty members and all students being supplied with updated computers on a regular rotation, and new units being issued to one-third of the faculty members annually. The Brown Hall computer laboratories have been supported as described earlier in this report. Faculty and staff members' offices and classrooms are well maintained, and access to the Internet is available in all faculty and staff offices and classrooms. The wi-fi capabilities in all campus buildings were assessed and additional access was added to all campus buildings in fall 2012. Since every student and faculty member has a university supplied and supported computer, technology is integrated into most every classroom and the need for a computer lab has diminished significantly. Computers are supplied in both Outreach centers for our student learning at a distance. All computers have software programs that support the learning in the classroom. Specific software for specialized classes are loaded on computers or the students receive a download source as needed. One example would be that students enrolled in research classes have access to ASP or SPSS. Other new and specialized hardware are available to our candidates. In Horace Mann, we have computers and iPads available to classroom instruction, research and exploration. Brown Hall also has a cart of iPads available and faculty have use of iPads as they model or use these to support their classroom instruction. Smart Boards are available in Brown Hall, Horace Mann, Colden Hall and Garret Strong to use as instructional tools. Clickers, white boards and other instructional support are available to our teacher candidates.

The development and implementation of the unit's assessment system is well funded. Resources were dedicated to two servers, the purchase of software, hardware and services to support our data system. The cost from university funds has been upwards of \$100,000 to implement the Tk20 system. Additionally, a person to implement, train, monitor and analyze data was employed and this has enabled Northwest to become one of the state leaders in the ability to store, manage and provide data for continuous improvement. This information system may be implemented in other areas of the university in the future. There is consideration now to use this for our Dietetics and Nutrition Program for licensure purposes.

Northwest serves as an information technology resource in education beyond the education programs to other institutions and to the community. The Horace Mann lab school has served as a learning lab and outside school personnel have benefited from visiting our classrooms. Additionally, we have partnered with Missouri Southern State University and North Central Community College to deliver course work and provide the technology to support the students at distance sites. An example of a P-12 partner would be Central High School in the St. Joseph School District who used our eCompanion website to support course development and deployment. Additional examples can be found as we serve our Mission in the Northwest area. The Northwest Center for Information and Technology (CITE) serves and is available as requested to work with all schools in our area. All of our faculty, students and staff have access to the CITE office for course or delivery training and assistance with deployment and all courses are supported by the eCompanion format.

Resources for distance learning programs are sufficient to provide reliability, speed, and confidentiality of connection in the delivery system. Northwest has support staff for technology and phone numbers are provided to all students and faculty to use for assistance. Additionally, we have a technology person who travels to our Outreach Centers to trouble shoot and repair or replace equipment. This person does

periodic checks to ensure that a proactive approach is be taken to facilitate classroom learning. At each Outreach site a technology assistant is employed to assist with the use of technology and in distance delivery classrooms each faculty member has a student employ to assist with the technology.

Faculty and candidates have access to exemplary library, curricular and electronic information resources that serve not only the unit but also a broader constituency. The Owens Library as mentioned above has had a face lift and some areas repurposed to better serve our on campus and off campus students. Personnel positions have been realigned to meet the needs of the future for example, there was no need to have a card catalog person to maintain or assist with the card catalog which is outdated. Under new leadership a renewal and repurposing was very intentional and forward thinking. Resources were rededicated to purchase electronic resources rather than all focusing on hard copy. The student use of the library has increased and evidence of learning and research are all around as you enter Owens Library. The online and Outreach center students have the same access to resources except they may never enter the hardscape facility on campus. The library staff members are readily available to assist both on-campus and off-campus students.