

Technology

The awareness, thoughtful use and deployment of technology all provide endless learning opportunities for students. The college, through systematic implementation of facilities planning, has developed smart classrooms campuswide, chiefly funded through community-approved bonds. These advanced classrooms benefit all students, as will the redesigned Library, slated for completion in fall 2015. Among other improvements, the Library will offer state-of-the-art technology in group study rooms. In addition, the new Library will feature upgraded wireless access and additional outlets to facilitate personal technology use by students, the majority of whom have smartphones, tablets and/or laptops.

As part of its equity commitment, the college works to address the ongoing digital divide, including that not all students have access to personal technology. This has been a key consideration in the creation and optimization, through bond measures, of accessible computer labs, targeted chiefly toward students without computing devices, and also used for instruction. As a pilot activity, the Office of Instruction procured iPads now loaded with complete course materials for Auto Tech students. Additional such projects are being explored as part of the college's developing partnership with Apple.

Faculty members and instructional departments collegewide embrace technology through its creative inclusion in the curriculum and in the use of tools including recording devices, polling/quizzing clickers and eportfolios, and in a focus on information and digital literacy. Through the district, the college is involved in the statewide Online Education Initiative to provide broadly accessible online courses.

Broader technology improvements at the college include the college in fall 2014 taking significant steps toward better serving students, faculty and staff by reorganizing the former Technology Resources Group, an amalgamation of positions with technology-related responsibilities, and redistributing the relevant staff into their departments of primary function. In addition, the studio in the Media and Learning Center was turned over to Film/TV for use as instructional space, with classes scheduled in the studio beginning in spring 2015. The college also entirely eliminated the use of the cable station at the end of 2014, in view of the fact that cable TV broadcast has long been outmoded as a course delivery method in urban areas, and is not considered a promotional asset for the college. Resources have been redirected toward online learning and promotion, including in the elimination of a vacant position to fund a multimedia producer position, with responsibilities for online production.

[THIS PARAGRAPH TO BE UPDATED POST-SPRING TTF MEETING{S}] In order to examine and improve its role, the college's Technology Task Force (TTF) will be requested in early spring 2015 to consider its name, mission, charge, current and desired membership, function as a college entity in an environment with district-provided infrastructure, previous plan, and capacity. This will assist in planning in support of Educational Master Plan goals and informing the development of the college's technology plan. An accomplishment of TTF in 2014 was the creation of a Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning Subcommittee to focus on ways technology can be used to engage students and increase learning.