

ITS upgrades classroom tech

New upgrades allow professors to use multimedia and other technology to teach students

BY ROSALIE SWINGLE
Staff Reporter

Truman State's Information Technology Services has completed building their 15th "smart" classroom throughout campus.

Diane Richmond, director of Truman's learning technologies team, is in charge of classroom updates. Richmond said the classrooms are identified as A, B, or C-level classrooms. A-level classrooms have a data projector, a computer and a document camera. B-level classrooms have upgraded speakers, and C-level classrooms have an interactive whiteboard and a lecture capture system, she said.

Richmond said the University now has a total of 15 C-level classrooms, or "smart" classrooms.

Richmond said the project started five years ago, when interim University President Darrell Krueger realized Truman needed to create academic environments suitable to the needs of Truman students. Since then, Richmond said current University President Troy Paino has made classroom updates a priority for the university's departments and budget.

Richmond said Baldwin Hall 156, nicknamed the "super C-level room," took a semester to plan and a summer to build. She said because of the extensive changes to the room, including new walls, new wiring and new furniture, the complete overhaul cost about \$75,000. The funding for the classroom updates came from the Information Technology

Services and the Provost's special project budgets, Richmond said.

"The new furniture might just be chairs and the easels might just have wheels on them, but these additions can really enhance both teaching techniques and learning styles," Richmond said.

English professor Heather Cianciola used BH 156 for one of her classes last semester.

"The thing I liked most was having the choice to use any level of technologies in the classroom," Cianciola said.

The upgrades provided the class with a broader range of texts, sharper sound images and the possibility to build different discussion groups around multiple screens in the classroom, Cianciola said.

"It gives professors a chance to talk to students about the role technology plays in education," Cianciola said. "We can discuss its ubiquitous presence and how it changes the way we learn."

Sophomore Anna DeMoor, a student from Cianciola's class, said she benefited from the improvements in the smart classroom. She said the SMART boards allow students to be more interactive with the classroom.

Susan Thomas, instructional designer for the learning technologies team, said the upgrades to Truman's classrooms never will be complete because classrooms always can be improved.

"It's a cyclical thing that can never be done, because there's always new technology being developed for the field," Thomas said.

Richmond said the completion of BH 156 is one of the University's many improvements of technological capabilities for its students and professors.

At the beginning of 2014, the learning technologies team already has planned 37 projects for the upcoming summer semester.

Upgrade to Smart classrooms

Listed below is a breakdown of classroom technology upgrade levels



Super-C classrooms

-Highest level classroom

-Costs \$75,000

-Includes new walls, wiring and furniture



C-Level classrooms

-Second highest level

-Interactive whiteboard

-Lecture capture system



B-Level classrooms

-Third highest level

-New speakers



A-Level classrooms

-Lowest level classroom

-New projectors

-Document cameras

Source: Diane Richmond, director of TSU learning technologies team

Chamber of commerce warns businesses about scam

A company claiming to be selling ads for tour guide might be illegitimate

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce is warning citizens about businesses pretending to be associated with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage consumers to buy their products.

In the latest case, a company called Worldview Guides claimed to be working with the Chamber of Commerce to create a Kirksville tour guide. The company was targeting busi-

nesses to buy advertising space in the guide, said Sandra Williams, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. The company has approached at least two Chamber of Commerce members during the past month, Williams said. However, Williams said the Chamber is not associated with this group.

"We just want to make our members aware," Williams said. "Know who you're dealing with. If there's a local business involved, make sure it's legitimate."

This problem occurs in Kirksville about once a year, Williams said. The problem often starts when a company contacts the Chamber of Commerce and asks the Chamber to distribute

free products, such as magnets, Williams said. She said if the Chamber allows the product to be distributed throughout the Chamber office, the companies consider themselves to be working with the Chamber and proceed to target consumers.

Williams said the Chamber stopped allowing companies to distribute free products to the Chamber about three years ago. She said this has not eliminated the problem of businesses falsely claiming to work with the Chamber.

The problem can be complicated further if the Chamber is selling ad space for a directory or map and another company starts selling ad space at the same time,

claiming to be working with the Chamber, Williams said.

"It gets our members confused because they know we're doing something, so they assume that's who they're talking to," Williams said. "They're misleading people."

Doug McDermott, President of the Farmington Regional Chamber of Commerce, said advertising scams are a common problem for Chambers of Commerce throughout the state.

"Though many reputable companies actually join the Chambers in the areas they are targeting for sales, many do not, and instead use vague language to prospective customers hinting at a Chamber partnership or

relationship," McDermott said. "That can be difficult to monitor and even more difficult to combat, because often by the time the Chamber is made aware, the company has completed their marketing efforts."

Mark Truby, Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, in Nixa, Mo., said the Nixa Chamber has had to deal with this problem. The situation that occurred in Nixa was more large-scale, so the company was reported to the Better Business Bureau, Truby said. Williams said the Kirksville Chamber has not been able to take such actions because no one has purchased ad space with the company.

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