WSU ITS Presents Virtual Laptop Showcase

It’s that time of year again when we choose our new laptop models and specifications for our eWarrior Digital Life and Learning Program. This year Laptop Showcase has gone 100% VIRTUAL with an interactive web experience including laptop specs, presentation videos and even a couple live-streamed question and answer sessions with a panel of WSU ITS experts!

The new laptops will be distributed to all incoming, full-time undergraduates and faculty, as well as those up for a laptop replacement this summer.

New laptops under consideration for 2021

As always, we will offer one PC and one Mac model. The MacBook Pro under consideration is similar to last year’s model and comes with a touch bar and 13-inch Retina display. There are two HP models under consideration this year, the Elite Dragonfly G2 and the Elitebook G8. The interactive web experience will be up through the month of March!

https://educate.winona.edu/laptop-showcase/

WSU ITS Discusses HyFlex Course Design with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Leadership Team

TLT’s Ken Graetz was invited to discuss the HyFlex course delivery model with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences leadership team. A wonderful conversation was held regarding the definition and pros/cons of HyFlex courses as well as the path forward for faculty interested in redesigning their courses for HyFlex delivery.

Teaching an effective HyFlex course is much more than just turning on a camera in a classroom so remote students can tune in. WSU has been doing that for decades since the advent of ITV. A true HyFlex learning experience must be designed carefully from a student’s perspective to allow a full range of participation options. There is plenty of time to prepare HyFlex courses for the fall, but instructors are encouraged to start out to all faculty interested in this model. A recording of Ken’s presentation to CoNHS leadership is available for review.
“Tech Quote”

“Technology like art is a soaring exercise of the human imagination.”

— Daniel Bell, The Winding Passage: Essays and Sociological Journeys

ITS & Nursing Receive Special Projects Award for Augmented Reality Initiative

The Winona State Foundation awarded ITS and Nursing a $3,400 Special Projects Award for their collaborative “Bringing Critical Care to the Classroom” proposal.

The money will be used to purchase a Matterport Pro 3D Camera for capturing detailed 3D renderings of spaces that can then be made interactive using Matterport’s online web service. Using this new camera, Nursing and ITS will work together to create interactive, online, 3D renderings of critical care and operating room environments that our nursing students will use to experience physical environments to which they have limited access. The screen capture comes from one such Matterport video of an operating room. After the room loads, viewers can “move through the space”. Congratulations to TLT’s Norb Thomes who, along with Susan Zeller (Nursing), developed this winning proposal.

ITS VISION

Information Technology Services (ITS) endeavors to position the University as a national leader in the innovative and effective use of technology to support the academic enterprise.

TECH TEAM SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Adam Zanzig
POSITION: Multimedia Systems & Services Coordinator
YEARS AT WSU ITS: 17
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WSU ITS: “I’m the administrator for WSU’s Kaltura Management Console which we use for managing our campus-wide streaming media. I provide technical support for Kaltura MediaSpace, the video delivery portal for Faculty, Staff and Students. I work with Access Services to make sure our instructional content meets ADA guidelines for students who require an Accommodation. I assist with Copyright research and release requests. I work with Faculty to create instructional media, and I produce videos used for training and marketing.”
FAVORITE PART OF ITS: “ITS is woven into everything we do at WSU, so we get to work with people from virtually every corner of the University. There’s always a new challenge or project to keep things fresh and interesting.”
FUN FACT ABOUT ADAM: “I’ve been a working musician for 35 years. It’s a great creative outlet.”

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