

SMART Profile Ashland University



Ashland University campus where students are learning with ICT products and group collaboration tools from SMART Technologies.

University delivers on students technology expectations

When Thomas Kemp arrived at Ashland University as the new director of instructional technology and support, he discovered that more than half of the 130 classrooms on campus had SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards, Sympodium™ interactive pen displays or AirLiner™ wireless slates. Kemp had been implementing SMART products on campuses for more than ten years and immediately began developing a new technology standard for the campus. More than 60 percent of all classrooms on campus are now equipped with a SMART product. Kemp was also impressed by the capabilities of SMART's Bridgit™ conferencing software and sees it as a means to facilitate distance education on campus.

"We created nine different levels of classrooms and defined each one with different technology products," says Kemp. "At level three, we added a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, and by level six the classroom had the SMART Board interactive whiteboards, Sympodium interactive pen displays, AirLiner wireless slates and Bridgit conferencing software."

The past two to three years, faculty at the campus have really focused on technology adoption. They are seeing more examples of synchronous and asynchronous learning, and they want to be equipped to handle both. The university is making progress, and teachers are starting to incorporate technology into their daily routine. Many teachers are using online content management systems and posting all of the content from lectures and supporting materials to the Web for students to access from home.

"The majority of the faculty has managed to incorporate the technology to effectively impart whatever they are trying to teach in their classes."

Students are becoming more proficient with technology and are exposed to technology in learning environments early on in their schooling. Staff at the university need to keep their technology skills polished in order to reach technology-literate students. Kemp recognizes this and plans to increase training in the coming year.

Kemp also commented that prospective students are encouraged to come to the university because they recognize the difference between a classroom with a chalkboard and a classroom with a SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

"They have grown up with technology, and they know what technology in the classroom should look like. SMART is the standard for education, so far as Ohio is concerned, it allows synchronous content in the classroom."

"They have grown up with technology, and they know what technology in the classroom should look like. SMART is the standard for education, so far as Ohio is concerned, it allows synchronous content in the classroom."

Thomas Kemp,
director, technology