



Disabled Student Programs & Services  
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## M E M O R A N D U M

Date: January 11, 2016  
To: Audrey Yamagata-Noji; Vice President, Student Services  
From: Grace Hanson; Dean, DSPS  
cc: Gary Gidcumb, Facilities Construction Manager

Subject: BrightLink as a Smart Board alternative for the new Accessible Technology Center and Classrooms in SSC

Audrey, it came to my attention that BrightLink is not considered the campus standard, however, they will be provided on an as needed basis. A justification along with vice presidential approval is required. This memo serves as DSPS' justification of the need for BrightLink in hopes of obtaining your approval to purchase them for our new High Tech Center to be called "Accessible Technology Center," (ATC), classrooms, and ATC Meeting Room in the new Student Success Center.

Classrooms: DSPS faculty who teach DSPS courses as well as offer student drop in sessions at the Accessible Technology Center have traditionally used smart board-type technology in the courses because of their tremendous learning potential. The accessibility of BrightLink and immediate response to accessibility needs, such as printing directly from BrightLink immediately to distribute to the class cuts down on the need for and expense of note takers.

The students also benefit from an "experiential" memory of seeing the writing exactly as they saw it being written on the board. If color is used and printed, this provides significant benefit to the visual learner and enhances the experiential memory. In strategy classes, students who work out math problems or generate multiple topic sentence ideas on the board can have a printed copy of their work. The touch screen technology vs. non-touch screen adds to the dimension of experiential learning and immediate response by the system, rather than writing on tablet and hoping that the projection does justice to the students' work.

Class notes can also instantly be uploaded to Moodlerooms as class resources. BrightLink does not cast shadows or blind the presenters which has become an issue in the DHH classes especially. Interactive technology increases student engagement and therefore success. Students who take DSPS classes are often already struggling or at risk and need every possible advantage/resource to be successful.

ATC Study Center: BrightLink would also be beneficial for students who receive assistance in the ATC Study Center. Since all interactivity with the instructional content can take place directly on the BrightLink projection, the BrightLink will serve as a focal point where students can gather to receive instruction in a collaborative learning environment. This allows students to learn from one another as well as maximizes the efficiency of our lab assistants in being able to assist multiple students at the same time. It was explained to us that the cost for a BrightLink vs. traditional projector/screen in that area is the same.

ATC Meeting Room: Gary and some DSPS staff did a walk through on Friday, January 8. We were told that BrightLink is the only option there. The reason for this is because the light fixture that was installed in that room prevents a traditional projector/screen from being installed. Naturally, there much more functionality in BrightLink than a traditional projector/screen set up. So, in addition to staff meeting room functions, at times, faculty plan on using the room with small groups of students working on a single math subject (like the PSYC 10 students).

As you are aware, technology has opened many doors for students with disabilities. The college has an obligation to stay current in the technology field in order to provide the best, most reasonable accommodations for student with disabilities. This is one reason we have our own technology personnel. As such, the DSPS technology team will add the college's knowledge base on BrightLink related-topics, such as strategies and applications of BrightLink as it relates to student learning, trouble shooting and repair, short cuts and efficiencies, etc.

The DSPS faculty were among the first to have SmartBoards, when they first came out; and also had an opportunity to try out the Innovator in classroom 17-9 as a SmartBoard alternative. The SmartBoards broke down regularly. The Innovator is reported to be cumbersome, difficult to learn, non-responsive, and not conducive to student use.

For these reasons, the DSPS respectfully requests the purchase of four (4) Epson BrightLink systems to be installed in the Accessible Technology Center Study Area (room #1190) and both DSPS classrooms (rooms #1060 and #2080, and one in the ATC Meeting Room (room #1080).

Please advise us if further justification or information is needed. Thank you for your consideration of our request.