

Brenau University: Mondopad Expands Classroom Collaboration to Multiple Campuses

Remote Learning with 60 Mondopads at Eight Campuses Maximizes School's Instructional Resources

At a Glance

- Instructional resources were dedicated to in-room learning leading to cancelled classes when not enough students could attend in person. Brenau University sought a tool for remote class attendance for students located at eight other campuses.
- 60 Mondopads equipped with all-in-one video calling, file-sharing and real-time annotation were spread throughout classrooms at eight regional campuses.
- Educators have been able to teach students in classrooms across the region simultaneously and can deliver more creative and interactive lessons.

Challenge

Some university courses, especially those dedicated to specialized fields of study, draw enrollment from only a select number of students every semester. A few years ago at Brenau University, a private institution established in 1878 with eight locations throughout Georgia, specialized classes at some of the campuses had to be cancelled when not enough students signed up. Unfortunately, many students that were spread across the campuses needed to take the cancelled classes to earn credit toward their chosen degree. Brenau, a tech-savvy school that started offering online courses in 2002, wanted to provide the classes and serve those dedicated students but didn't have an easy way to allow a single instructor to teach students at each of the school campuses simultaneously.

When the time came to upgrade some Brenau classrooms from old projectors and PCs that could only serve students in the room, the instructional technology support team began researching technologies that could instead serve students on all the campuses at once. They researched several video conferencing solutions including Cisco, Vidyo and LifeSize and interactive touchscreen boards from Sharp but determined they would need to combine at least two of them to get the collaborative functionality they sought.



“[Mondopad] has allowed us to better collaborate, teach and provide information in a more efficient manner and it gives us great flexibility to offer it to our remote sites and online students.”

- Dan Odom, Instructional Technology Support Technician, Brenau University

Solution

Brenau University wanted an all-in-one device that combined video calling, sharing presentations and note taking. They decided to standardize on InFocus Mondopad, the large-format touchscreen display with an on-board Windows PC and built-in collaboration apps for executive-quality video calling, digital whiteboarding and Internet browsing. With Mondopad, a teacher could share and write on a presentation over a video call and teach not only the students in the room but those in the satellite locations as well.

Dan Odom, the instructional technology support technician dedicated to managing the university's 60 Mondopads, explained a few reasons Brenau uses the device. "[Mondopad] combines all the necessary [video conferencing and touchscreen] components into a single, easy-to-use system. It has the ability to run any software our instructors need for hosting webinars and making lecture recordings, and acts as a class presentation tool in addition to its video conferencing abilities. It has enhanced audio and video calling capabilities that compared with SIP/H.323 conferencing systems costing five times as much."

Results

From mathematics to psychology, anatomy to music, and interior design to the dance studio, classrooms on all eight Brenau University campuses have Mondopads to help educate students across the room and across the region at the same time. According to Odom, standardizing on Mondopads has greatly improved Brenau's educational capabilities.

"Mondopads have improved the organization and learning by allowing Brenau to better communicate, collaborate, and be more interactive with students both on campus, online, and across multiple locations all across the state," said Odom. "It has allowed us to close the gap of remote students not being able to attend a class that was offered at another campus, and instructors being able to teach a class not only locally or online but also to remote campus classrooms."

He said students are eager to interact with the device and it has helped teachers create a better, more interactive, hands-on teaching environment for the students to learn in. "Ultimately, we want to have a Mondopad in every classroom on every campus," said Odom.

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