

Niagara County Community College Sanborn, NY

Niagara County Community College (NCCC), part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, was originally located in downtown Niagara Falls and its main building was the former Nabisco Shredded Wheat plant. The current campus, opened in 1973, is centrally located in Niagara County on a beautiful 287-acre rural campus.

Between December 2006 and June 2007, Richard Smalko, NCCC Technical Assistant, was charged with creating a teaching station equipped with the software and hardware tools that instructors might encounter in today's classrooms. Its purpose: to support the NCCC Teaching Academy, part of a two-year certification program offered to grade school, high school and higher education teacher candidates, as well as teachers who want or need to become more technology savvy. With courses targeted for each grade level, the goal of this combination classroom / computer lab is to introduce as much technology as possible over the course of a semester.



PC and MAC, Side-By-Side

Key functionality in the Teaching Academy is the presentation of both PC and MAC software programs simultaneously. Dual projectors are controlled by the Crestron Multimedia Presentation (MPS) model 200, an integrated presentation control and signal routing solution with touchpanel AV output, professional audio features, front panel controls and out-of-the box functionality. The MPS-200 features an 8X2 matrix switcher, and was chosen by NCCC as the best solution for side-by-side demonstrations of the two computer operating systems. The MPS distributes the PC output with standard RGB and RS-232 control to one projector, while the MAC output is routed to the other projector using a QuickMedia QM-RX, which receives RGB and video signals over a single CAT5 cable. Other controlled devices include VCR, DVD, document presenter, wireless microphone and speakers, and the control interface is a TPS-3000 touchpanel. Additionally, instructors can view and control student computers in the room, and take the output of any student computer and route it to a video projector.

NCCC Expands Crestron Deployment

Crestron worked so well in the Teaching Academy that NCCC incorporated similar solutions in two campus lecture halls used by virtually all school departments. In the lecture halls, a PC, VCR, DVD and document camera are managed by an MPS-100, featuring a 5X2 matrix switcher, which enabled the consolidation of a multitude of remotes that used to "walk away". Crestron QuickMedia made wiring much simpler, by allowing NCCC to run a CAT5 cable and a control cable through an existing conduit to control the rear projection units in each room. Three additional lecture halls are being considered for similar upgrades when funding becomes available.

Audio-Video Corporation, headquartered in Albany, NY, helped NCCC finalize the equipment options and accessories and to program the system and touchpanels. The system utilities and audio setup are password protected, and the college logo appears on the opening screen.

According to Mr. Smalko, "The system was very easy to install and has been working flawlessly, with nothing but praise from end users."



We Can Help

We make advanced technology easy to use, so the focus is on teaching and learning. Please contact your Crestron Regional Manager for a recommended solution to streamline your next project.