



Vision Press

Seeing is Believing...and Learning

North Dakota Vo-Tech Center Revamps Learning with Streaming Video Programs

Multimedia learning programs continue to make their way through educational institutions across the country. A growing number of vocational technology schools are hopping on the bandwagon. Such schools face the challenge of keeping up with a myriad of industries, as well as computer technology and effective learning methods. And typically, these schools have a fraction of the budget that corporations and some institutions have.

At the Southeast Area Vocation Technical Center in Oakes, ND, classrooms brim with students of various skill levels there to become ASE certified mechanics, or efficient in welding or construction. With the goal of revamping their automotive program, the school worked with Convenience Learning, a company based in Plymouth, MN specializing in video delivery solutions.

The vo-tech center wanted a program that would replace their current paper-heavy process that involved lectures, significant written text and diagrams, and minimal use of videos. Students needed certain knowledge before hands-on experience with autos. The learning lab was their answer.

At the core of this system--set up as a local area network but without the traditional server--is a video server, which allows video to literally stream to each workstation. Steve Thompson, the school's technology manager, says the system was flawless on the hardware end and low maintenance to manage. He says the school's entire auto course is set up. The computer and welding programs are next.

Thompson explains the networked digital video system as one VCR hooked up to 20 televisions. "Imagine each student can play the tape at whatever time and pace they want," he says. The school's auto classes are now all self-paced instructional multimedia programs where students work at their own pace before going into the auto shop. They study every aspect of auto technology from the engine, computer and charging systems to air conditioning, fuel injection and anti-lock brakes. The courses also cover basic math, electricity and auto electronics, as well as troubleshooting and shop safety.

Roger Rudolph, the school's auto instructor notes that students comprehend the material better with this program. Their progress is measured with pretests and post-tests for each section. He says the program doesn't slow down or bore the top students. He adds that with their revamped program if a student is having trouble with a certain section, he can give them extra attention if needed.

Jesse Anderson of Cogswell, ND, is studying auto mechanics at the school and feels he learns better

with this program than with textbooks. He says the 3D aspects of the videos are easy to understand. Every lesson requires him to test at 100 percent before moving forward. "If you answer a question wrong you relearn. If you are right, you move to the next section," he says. This helps every student.

Martin Aagenes, director of the vo-tech center says his school is a pilot program for the streaming video technology. Now numerous others schools are calling and visiting. Aagenes says his school is the first of its kind in North Dakota to adopt the new technology. He says it makes the "shop time" much more effective and efficient. The program frees instructors, allowing them to give more individual attention to students. Aagenes adds, "The visual learning and self-pace aspects of the program are the major advantages," he explains. "The students really like it. They grew up watching television and are much more used to visual learning."

Cyndi Harles is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

SUMMARY

Convenience Learning International (CLI) has created an easy, yet effective means to combine the impact of TV quality video with the power of the PC. By combining video with pre & post testing and various interactive features our courseware delivers an on-line learning experience that reaches more people more quickly and effectively than ever before. We believe that with our courseware's multi-sensory approach, visual, audio and kinesthetic (touch), CLI's courseware Communicates with the learner to educate them

on the given topic. Each learner has their own individual experience with our courseware because we remediate only the information they did not understand, thereby increasing each student's retention. The final step in the education process is the application of the knowledge. We cannot control how a person applies knowledge. What we can do is Communicate, Educate and help them Retain the information so they have all the tools to Apply what they have learned to their individual jobs.

As more and more publishers produce multimedia based curriculum, the need to share them over the network will increase. A networked multimedia solution does not have to mean a complete overhaul of your existing network infrastructure. Video file servers are a viable and cost effective solution for providing a variety curriculum solutions for K-12, Community Colleges, Vocational Centers, Technical Colleges and Universities.

For further information, contact:



David Janiszewski
Convenience Learning International.
175 Jackson Ave N.
Suite 412
Hopkins, MN 55343
763-559-4500
djaniszewski@clearning.com
WWW.CLEARING.COM