



Winona State University

Gateway helps develop and support a model 1:1 Computing Program.

BACKGROUND: Winona State University (WSU), located in Winona, Minnesota, enrolls over 8,000 students and is divided into five distinct colleges. Its mission is to provide high-quality, affordable education to undergraduate and graduate students. The faculty uses advanced technology to help build and maintain an optimal learning environment for students.

CHALLENGE: The University needed to fulfill notebook orders for incoming 2005-06 freshmen and to replace dated notebook PCs.

GATEWAY SOLUTION: In fall 2005, Winona State added more Gateway notebooks to its existing inventory of 4,000.

- 3,500 Gateway® Convertible Notebooks featuring Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology¹ fulfill orders for the 1:1 Computing Program and replace older PCs with advanced technology.

RESULTS: Through Gateway's dedication and support, Winona State University has become a respected model for other university 1:1 Computing Programs. Its faculty is dedicated to using advanced technology, and WSU students benefit from anytime, anywhere computing and Internet access.

“Our relationship with Gateway is a partnership that has established WSU as a model for other university 1:1 Computing Programs.”

*— Dean Feller, Manager Technical Support Center,
Winona State University*



Gateway®

BACKGROUND

Winona State University (WSU), located in Winona, Minnesota, enrolls over 8,000 students and is divided into five distinct colleges. Its mission is to provide high-quality, affordable education to undergraduate and graduate students. As a mid-sized public institution, the University is committed to small class sizes and to challenging students through rigorous academic standards. A Winona State education helps students acquire the disciplinary expertise to pursue careers or enter graduate or professional schools. For the 2005-06 academic year, and the tenth consecutive year, WSU was named one of America's Best College Buys.



Gateway's notebook-to-Tablet functionality provides the flexibility that makes it feel more like a tool than a new piece of technology, an important distinction in education.

— Dean Feller, Manager Technical Support Center, Winona State University



EDUCATION CHALLENGE

WSU's undergraduate course catalog states that the dedicated use of a notebook PC by students lets them learn through personal experience to use computers responsibly and appropriately in daily life. Since 1997, with the launch of its 1:1 Computing Program, WSU has been at the forefront of providing students with advanced technology as everyday educational tools. In 2005, the University needed to fulfill orders from its entering freshmen students and refresh many of the notebooks acquired through its 1:1 Computing Program.

TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

The University continues to challenge itself by always considering emerging technologies and dedicating staff to integrate these powerful tools into lesson plans and assignments. "Taking maximum advantage of the Gateway® convertible notebooks depends on providing our professors with the education and support to use them," said Dean Feller, Manager, Technical Support Center, Winona State University. "That is the challenge we continue to face."

THE SOLUTION

Winona State University added 3,500 Gateway convertible notebook PCs to its existing 4,000 to provide this advanced educational tool to every full-time undergraduate student and faculty member. By selecting the convertible notebook as its PC standard, Winona State gives professors the confidence that every full-time student has the best tool to successfully research and complete any assignment. The program gives students accessibility to coursework, e-mail, and Internet resources anywhere and at any time, on a computer over which they alone have control.

Since early 2004 when the University selected Gateway convertible notebooks as its 1:1 Computing Program PC option, professors have increasingly used the notebooks during lectures to access information online, present lessons, and

demonstrate problem solving. "I have seen new energy and motivation among our faculty and staff now that all students have the Gateway convertible notebooks," reports Feller. In some of the University's MIS and business courses, professors encourage students to convert PowerPoint® slides into OneNote® documents. The students can then take handwritten digital notes on the slide show using Gateway's Tablet technology; they can add space between slides, or even record audio portions of the lecture along with relevant slides.

The University's graphics department realizes time and cost benefits from ubiquitous access to Gateway notebooks. Expensive applications that previously were only available on desktop systems are now licensed by the department and easily shared among students. Sharing the software gives students flexibility to work from anywhere, at any time.

As Feller approaches one decade of experience managing and fine-tuning WSU's notebook program, he has a few suggestions for other schools considering a similar program. Feller recommends that schools be flexible in their leasing options; to ensure that the lease agreement considers the school's IT resources, buy-back potential, fluctuation in enrollment, and any other variable unique to the institution. Another suggestion is to spend time upfront to develop a sustainable method for managing inventory. Feller has learned the importance of storing and tracking stock numbers, which can become exponentially more difficult if the inventory management system does not scale as the program grows.

"WSU took a leap of faith when we committed to such a new technology as the Gateway convertible notebook, and we're thrilled we did," said Feller. "Gateway's notebook-to-Tablet functionality provides the flexibility that makes it feel more like a tool than a new piece of technology, an important distinction in education." Immediately upon receiving their notebooks, WSU students felt comfortable rotating the screen and using it in the Tablet position. The University was surprised at how quickly students seemed to become attached to their notebooks. Today, it is rare to see a WSU student without a Gateway convertible notebook. Feller encourages universities to evaluate and seriously consider emerging technologies for their 1:1 Computing Programs.

Feller's final recommendation is the one that ultimately sustains the success of the program and accelerates the benefits for students. "Engage faculty in the technology by teaching them how to use it as an educational tool in the classroom," recommends Feller. WSU's eLearning Center is a resource center staffed with dedicated personnel who help professors develop curricula that incorporate convertible notebook capabilities in myriad ways.

RESULTS

WSU appreciates the mutually beneficial relationship it has with Gateway. With WSU's high volume of business, Gateway provides a bundle of added support including an Accidental Damage Service Plan,² online training,³ phone support,⁴ and an on-site repair program.² Through WSU's dedicated Gateway representative, Feller and his team escalate issues immediately and receive responses quickly in return. "In five years of working directly with our representative, Gateway has responded to and resolved issues to our satisfaction every time," said Feller. "Our relationship with Gateway is a partnership that has established WSU as a model for other university 1:1 Computing Programs."



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