

## **Dee Family Technology Grants Funding Criteria**

The Dee Family Technology Awards provide support for faculty projects using technology in research or applying technology to pedagogy. Funds are distributed based on a competitive proposal process and proposals are reviewed by the Academic Resources and Computing Committee.

In order to qualify for funding, a successful proposal must fit into one of the following general categories:

1. Projects specifically related to faculty research or scholarly activities.
2. Discipline-specific software to enable a faculty member to enhance an existing course, or to develop a new course.
3. One-time technical support for the development of special software related to a specific course.
4. Costs associated with one-time faculty training in an area of information technology directly applicable to the academic mission of the institution.
5. Requests for specific pieces of hardware are acceptable. However the hardware should be essential for completion of a project in one of the four categories above.

Funds available for award during Spring 2004 total \$15,000. Given the limited availability of funds, restrictions exist related to the funding of information technology by the Dee Family Technology Awards:

1. During this initial phase, project requests are limited to a maximum of \$5,000.
2. Faculty and staff office computers are not funded. Under certain circumstances, an individual may require a machine that exceeds the campus standard. In such a case, this may qualify for funding.
3. Equipment or technical support for student or departmental laboratories are not supported.
4. Only projects directly related to information technology are funded.

The form below must be emailed (without signatures) and mailed to the ARCC chair, David Ferro, [dferro@weber.edu](mailto:dferro@weber.edu) and MC 2401 by April 1, 2004.

**Dee Family Technology Awards  
Proposal for Funding**

Due Friday, April 1, 2005

**Project Title:** Psychological research online: Laptop computer for online

interviews assessing adolescents' thinking about opposite-sex peer interactions

**Project Director:** Dr. Leigh A. Shaw

**Department(s):** Psychology

**College(s):** Social and Behavioral Sciences

**E-Mail:** lshaw@weber.edu

**Extension:** 7429

**Other Members of the Project Team:** Other users will include WSU students

involved in the data collection and analyses, who will likely vary from year to year.

**Instructions:**

1. Please complete each section in the space provided. The justification section should not exceed two single-spaced typed pages.
2. You are required to obtain the signature of an ARCC representative for your college, indicating that she/he is familiar with the proposal, and can speak to it during funding deliberations.
3. Your department chair's signature is also required, indicating that she/he supports the proposal, and that the proposal is in keeping with departmental goals related to information technology and its applications to the academic mission of the institution. Your Chair's signature also indicates her/his commitment to help support the project financially if so indicated on the budget page.
4. The form below must be emailed (without signatures) and mailed to the ARCC chair, David Ferro, [dferro@weber.edu](mailto:dferro@weber.edu) and MC 2401 by April 1, 2005.

**ARCC Representative:**

I have read the proposal and discussed it with the Project Director.

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ARCC Representative

Comments:

**Department Chair:**

The Department has reviewed this project within the context of overall information technology planning within the Department. If the budget page indicates financial support from the Department, I agree to commit those funds to this project.

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Department Chair

Comments:

**College Dean:**

I have reviewed this project. If the budget page indicates financial support from the College, I agree to commit those funds to this project.

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College Dean

Comments:

## **Justification**

Your proposed project should be described as clearly and succinctly as possible in the spaces provided below. Be sure to review the "Criteria for Funding" document. *The entire justification section should not exceed two single-spaced pages.*

### **Abstract (project summary):**

This proposal is for the purchase of a wireless laptop computer to be used for online data collection and analyses in research examining adolescents' thinking about opposite-sex interactions. A central research goal is to explore how online technology, specifically online interviews in a secure, password-protected WebCT chatroom, may provide a viable and efficient psychological research method with adolescents. A wireless laptop is essential to the realization of this goal.

### **Objectives and goals of this project:**

The proposed project seeks to explore the use of online technology in psychological research. My primary research method is the traditional interview because it provides me with detailed data on how an individual thinks about particular issues. Despite their benefits, traditional interviews require transcription, thereby increasing their time and resource costs. In an era of increasing computer literacy, researchers must keep their methods current. More and more people have Internet access, and Internet chatrooms (which yield ready-made transcripts) are becoming a central communication medium for many Americans, particularly teenagers. When a national sample of teenagers were asked which medium they would bring to a deserted island, more teenagers said a computer with Internet access than any other medium (Subrahmanyam, Greenfield, Kraut, & Gross, 2001). Although the internet is increasingly used for personal communication, it is underutilized for psychological research. The proposed project will address this issue by assessing adolescents' thinking about opposite-sex interactions with both traditional interviews and online interviews in a secure, password-protected WebCT chatroom. Scott Allen (Web Designer/Continuing Education) has assured me that the chatroom in WebCT will provide me with the security necessary to do online interviews.

There are, however, problems that constrain my ability to conduct and to involve Psychology students in this research. I have no dedicated lab space in my department. I cannot allow students unsupervised access to my office computer to do online interviews. Also, students cannot do online interviews in campus computer labs because of the lack of privacy and threats to participant confidentiality, a particular concern in research with minors. Finally, because participants are adolescents, online interviews will be conducted outside participants' and researchers' traditional school and work hours (8-3 pm). In the following ways, these problems can be remedied with a wireless laptop computer. A wireless laptop computer ensures privacy and confidentiality during data collection and confidentiality of electronic versions of the data. The portability of a wireless laptop computer enables me (1) to train many students to do online interviews and to do data analyses, (2) to work in privacy with students during training, data collection and data

analyses in varied rooms in my department at varied times of day (i.e., late afternoon, evening, and weekend hours) when student researchers and research participants are available, (3) to travel to the University of Utah and the University of Rochester to collaborate with colleagues on data collection, analyses, and write-up, and (4) to improve data collection efficiency because I can do online interviews on my office computer at the same time that a student is doing online interviews on the laptop in a private room.

**Identify specific courses and/or programs that will directly benefit from this project:**

This project will positively impact WSU students' directed readings, projects and research, and senior thesis research courses. I regularly supervise students in these courses, and I typically have a few students collaborating with me on research every term. A wireless laptop will enable me to attain a central goal of this research by showing that online technology provides a viable and efficient psychological research method with adolescents. This achievement will augment my professional development, and my ability to attain external grants for subsequent research, thereby increasing the visibility of WSU.

**If applicable, describe how this project will help to increase faculty productivity or enhance competency in some area of information technology.**

A wireless laptop is essential to the efficiency and success of this project, and the growth of my research to include student and faculty collaborators at WSU and other universities, to include other forms of online data collection (e.g., online questionnaires), to recruit diverse samples of participants, and to support online data collection at varied sites and at varied times of day. A wireless laptop also will be used by other WSU faculty in Psychology (Eric Amsel, Theresa Kay, Lauren Fowler, Azenett Garza) in our ongoing research collaborations examining adolescent risk-taking, undergraduates' academic ethics, and online assessment of stereotype threat. A wireless laptop will greatly sustain my research program, thereby promoting my and my students' professional development.

**Describe how the success of this project will be evaluated.**

Evidence of success for the project will come from: (1) the usage of the wireless laptop by the project director and students for online interviews, (2) my ability to show that online technology provides a viable and efficient psychological research method with adolescents, (3) my ability to seek external grants for subsequent research (e.g., the Spencer Foundation), (4) my ability to present the findings at international Psychology conferences (e.g., the April 2007 Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, the June 2007 Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society), and (5) my ability to publish the findings in a top-tier, peer-reviewed journal (e.g., Child Development).

**Timeline:** (If funded, when will this project be implemented?)

I intend to purchase the wireless laptop as soon as possible and to begin using it during summer/fall 2005 to train Psychology students (to be recruited) to do online interviews. Due to the sheer number of interviews (144; IRB approval enclosed), data collection will continue through spring 2006. Data coding and analyses will take place during summer 2006. I expect to submit the findings for presentation at international Psychology conferences and for publication in a top-tier, peer-reviewed journal during 2007.

### Budget

Note: Please be as specific as possible regarding requested hardware, software, or other resources. If funds are being committed from other resources, please so indicate.

A wireless laptop PC is requested (*Please see attached sheet for computer specifications. The quote was obtained through the Small Business Section of the Dell website. Prices may slightly vary if I order the laptop computer through the WSU Bookstore with the Higher Education discount. Also, price estimates do not include shipping and handling as this information varies from day-to-day on the Dell Website*). I carefully considered the WSU campus computer standards for minimum requirements for new computers. The Latitude 100L is Dell's basic business class computer. The memory was slightly upgraded to ensure performance when operating multiple applications. The hard drive was slightly upgraded to provide sufficient storage capacity for the chat transcripts, traditional interview transcripts, coding manuals, research data files, and research presentations. A writeable CD Drive will be used to archive information (this laptop computer has no floppy drive). Wireless protocols vary from location to location. The selected wireless network card provides a wide range of compatibility with these varied protocols. Because much of the work to be done with the laptop computer will take place online, it is imperative that the laptop computer has virus protection. Thus, I selected a 15-month subscription to McAfee Security Center. Finally, the 3-year Business Standard Warranty Plan was selected because the nature of a laptop computer as a portable electronic device makes it susceptible to damage.

All software and peripherals will be funded by the project director and the Psychology department. I have received funds in the amount of \$150 from Dr. Arbuckle, Chair of the Psychology Department in support of this proposal. In addition, I have received funds in the amount of \$150 from Dean Sadler of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in support of this proposal. Finally, I am applying for funds from a RSPG New Faculty Grant to cover all other costs incurred to conduct this research project (i.e., payments to student researchers, equipment to conduct traditional interviews, payments to participants, and travel costs).

Approximate Cost of Wireless Laptop Computer:	\$1500.00
Minus Support from the Psychology Department:	\$ 150.00
Minus Support from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences:	\$ 150.00
Approximate Total Amount Requested:	\$1200.00