

Laramie County Community College

SMART classrooms give LCCC a technology advantage



Kara Gann connects her laptop to the SMART Board™ to deliver a lesson.

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Kara Gann, Information Technology Program Administrator, Laramie County School District Number One

Wyoming is a state of many firsts. It was the first state in the union to grant women voting rights and privileges, and Wyoming’s Laramie County was the first in the country to have a public library system. As is often the case when a new idea is introduced, others follow suit.

Such has been the situation when it comes to the introduction and adoption of SMART’s educational technology products in Laramie County. After Laramie County Community College (LCCC) purchased its first SMART Board interactive whiteboard in 1999, it underwent what might be called a technological revolution, and now adoption of SMART’s interactive whiteboards is a county-wide phenomenon.

In 2007, Laramie County Community College was tied for first place as the most tech-savvy mid-sized community college in the country by the Digital Community Colleges Survey conducted by the Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges. It’s this kind of achievement that draws students and faculty to LCCC.

“Our number one ranking is celebrated in our marketing materials, including advertising, print materials and student recruiting. Enrollment has increased 36 percent in the past five years, and student surveys have confirmed that marketing our cutting-edge technology has played a valuable role,” explains Don Myers, audiovisual technician at LCCC.

The award is a testament to the kind of forward thinking that seems to have always typified Wyoming, and especially LCCC. The largest community college in Wyoming, LCCC has 26 rooms at LCCC designated as SMART classrooms. Equipment includes a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and projector, a computer, and VCR and DVD players. The college also has 20 SMART multimedia classrooms that feature all this, as well as an AMX control system that controls projector operation and a document reader, bringing their total count of SMART Board interactive whiteboards to 66.

LCCC is not the only Laramie County institution to standardize on SMART Board interactive whiteboards and other SMART products. The schools in Laramie County School District Number One (LCSD) also feature interactive whiteboards in their classrooms, as

does the Laramie County Sheriff’s Department.

For Detention Captain Bill Long, the choice of a SMART Board interactive whiteboard was a natural one because he had used one when he was employed as an instructor at LCCC. In his current position, Long primarily uses the detention center’s SMART Board for training recruits to the sheriff’s department and for public relations and public education programs. When he or his colleagues are not using the interactive whiteboard, he finds personnel from other departments are eager to use it for their own work.

Kara Gann knows people are quick to convert to SMART products. As the information technology program administrator at LCSD, Gann has watched the adoption of SMART Board interactive whiteboards in each of the district’s 33 schools.

During the early stages of LCSD’s SMART project, Gann and other decision-makers toured Laramie County Community College to see their SMART classrooms in action. Gann says they choose SMART Board interactive whiteboards because of SMART Notebook software, which is especially designed with teachers and students in mind. She explains, “We looked carefully at other interactive whiteboard products and could not find other software that was as comprehensive as Notebook software.”

As a result of standardizing on SMART products, LCSD teachers are on the forefront of making ICT a vital part of educating the youth of Laramie County. Maureen Young, a technology



Don Myers delivers a presentation using two SMART Board interactive whiteboards.

integration specialist in the county's South Triad Elementary Schools, believes using SMART Board interactive whiteboards along with document cameras, DVD players and SMART's AirLiner™ wireless slates, "helps to reach different modalities, thus improving learning for all students."

Those tremendous gains are being realized on a county-wide basis because of the decision to standardize on SMART Board interactive whiteboards and other products. As a result, learning is improved for students from kindergarten to college. Such forward thinking is proof that Wyoming is at the top of the class, driving change and modeling innovation for the rest of the county.

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