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Enhancing Pace's Informatics Platform though the Fine Arts Digital Photo Program.

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Year 1 Final Report

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Thinkfinity Grant, Feb 2009

Enhancing Pace's Informatics Platform though the Fine Arts Digital Photo Program.

Cornerstones # 2 and 3

Roger Sayre, Fine Arts, Dyson College

7/15/2101

Final Project Report

Original Goals:

To enable the enhancement of our digital photography platform: specifically, the purchase of four high-end digital single-lens-reflex cameras, twelve lesser digital cameras, a laptop with and software capable of working with large digital files, and various supplementary hardware and software.

This equipment would expand the Thinkfinity platform by:

1) Exposing both Pace University students and faculty to the most up-to-date technology available, the same equipment used by professional photographers both in the contemporary fine arts and commercial fields.

2) Create an interdisciplinary informatics platform at Pace University.

3) Allowing the Fine Arts Department to create programs that introduce K-12 students to digital photography through creative teaching and community engagement.

Progress towards original goals:

Goals 1 and 3 have been successfully completed.

Activities completed to contribute to meeting/progressing toward these goals:

Students in Fine Art, and Fine Art related INT and LC classes had access to the latest professional photography equipment and technology.

Activities not been completed.

Goal number 3 was not completed because the 12 less expensive cameras in the initial proposal were no longer available (nor were there any equivalent cameras in the same price range) when it was time to make a purchase. Instead, several middle range cameras were purchases to supplement goals 1 and 2. However, we did not have enough equipment to complete the community outreach originally envisioned.

Outcomes Received:

Students made constant use of new equipment, both in Fine Arts classes and INT and LC classes. A whole new level of technology, unaffordable to a typical student, was made available and easily accessible.

Impact on Students:

The impact on our students could clearly be seen through the quality of their work with the new equipment. The students who had access to the Thinkfinity funded equipment were far more facile and competent with high end digital photography than students from previous years. It is hard to estimate the total amount of students impacted. Each piece of equipment was checked out many times, but sometimes the same students would check out equipment more than once. Several hundred students had access to the equipment and approximately half of them used it, often repeatedly.

Impact on Faculty.

All faculty were impacted, regardless of discipline. The fact that their students could check out high quality equipment created an atmosphere of freedom of expression not hindered by expenses. Students from all ranges of art classes used the equipment, not just photo or digital arts students. Equipment was also used for research, and documentation of work in other disciplnes.

Unintended Outome:

The most noticeable unintended outcome was that our department had to create an efficient system which enabled students to check out and return equipment.

Do your outcomes reflect the change or benefit you were hoping to receive?

The desired outcomes were definitely achieved. Our classes and department are much the better for having received this grant.

How has your project furthered the Thinkfinity Cornerstone you selected?

The Thinkfinity Technology Grant has helped with teaching and research in both traditional and interdisciplinary classes.

Describe your future plans for sustaining the program or project.

Now that we have the latest equipment, we intend to keep it well maintained, and to upgrade to the current state of the art equipment when items eventually fail or become obsolete.