

Special ITAC Funding Request

A Joint Technology Classroom Proposal



Submitted by

The College of Education
The College of Natural Sciences

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UTeach Natural Sciences is an innovative joint program of the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Education, and Austin Independent School District to recruit and prepare students to become secondary math and science teachers. Its streamlined professional development sequence draws on the latest research in learning and features a standards-based curriculum, multiple forms of assessment, and extensive technology integration. UTeach prepares teachers who know their discipline, involve their students in scientific inquiry, and use new technologies to support learning. The program recently won a prestigious international award (ISTE) for effective integration of instructional technology. It has had exceptional success in attracting Natural Sciences undergraduates to careers in math and science education. Enrollment in the program has steadily grown. Currently 400 students are in the program taught by faculty members in each college and master teachers in cooperating schools.

Room 316 in the College of Education's Sánchez Building (SZB) is a technology and science lab classroom that is used extensively for UTeach Natural Sciences courses. However, its seating capacity (22) is now too limited for many of these classes because of the configuration of its computer workstations and wet lab facilities. The computer workstations are several years old and are too outdated for use with much of the software needed in the UTeach courses. Although the room has a projection screen, it lacks a projection system. Instructors must reserve for delivery a portable system if they wish to project computer or video based instruction.

Room 4.18 in the College of Natural Sciences' Painter Hall is likewise a technology rich UTeach classroom used extensively for UTeach courses. However, while this room is equipped with student workstations and other science facilities, it does not have an instructor's technology workstation and so offers limited opportunities for optimal integration of instructional technology in the UTeach teacher preparation courses.

Because the modeling of appropriate technology use in instruction is one of the most important elements of the UTeach curriculum, having up-to-date, high quality technology lab/classrooms for use in UTeach and other math and science courses, with the capacity to accommodate this growing program, is a pressing priority for both colleges. The Colleges of Education and Natural Sciences therefore request special ITAC funding for 2004-2005 to renovate SZB 316 and to equip it and PAI 4.18 with suitable projection systems.

The renovation of SZB 316 will reconfigure and refurnish the room, giving it a seating capacity of 35. The College of Education will provide new laptop computers to allow use of a wider range of software and more flexible set-up of the room when computers are not needed. A ceiling-mounted projector and console will provide effortless presentation of instructional multimedia. In PAI 4.18 a standard instructor's console including computers, projector, control box, and sound system will be installed.

Budget Detail:

Construction and Furnishings – SZB 316	\$50,000
Projector/Instructor Console System – SZB 316	\$40,000
Instructor Console System – PAI 4.18	<u>\$35,000</u>

Budget Total

\$125,000

These improvements will result in state-of-the-art technology facilities that can successfully serve the needs of the nationally-recognized cross-college UTeach program and allow its instructors to continue to demonstrate and develop the effective use of technology in instruction.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact Dr. Paul Resta, Director, Learning Technology Center, College of Education (resta@mail.utexas.edu).