

Coppin State University Baltimore, Maryland

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Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD, is a liberal arts institution and a leader in urban education and public service. Information technology is the centerpiece for the school's institutional goals, and every instructional room across Coppin State's growing campus is a connected classroom standardized on Crestron.

Dr. Ahmed El-Haggan is Vice President of Information Technology, CIO, and Professor of Computer Science at Coppin State. He heads the Information Technology Division at Coppin, which is responsible for all aspects of information and telecommunication technologies, including AV. "I believe AV is part of IT," said El-Haggan. "It's a reflection of the integrated approach we take here at Coppin. We converge as much around IT as possible, including instructional and classroom technology."



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At 160,000 square feet, the new Health and Human Services Building (HHSB) is the school's largest academic structure, and houses the School of Nursing, Honors College, and School of Professional Studies, which includes Criminal Justice, Social Work, Applied Psychology / Rehabilitation Counseling and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Convergent Technologies Design Group (CTDG) in Baltimore was tasked with designing systems for the HHSB that would advance the campus standard for instructional technology while establishing

a baseline for future improvements on campus. "A major design consideration in the HHSB was the need for standardization across the 48 rooms, many of which have specialized teaching requirements," observed Bill Holaday, CTDG project manager. "In such a diverse environment, the design and implementation of a consistent user interface is a critical factor," agreed Paul Corraine, CTDG Principal.

During the design phase of the HHSB, El-Haggan made the decision to standardize on Crestron across the campus, which included 15 buildings and over 100 "smart" rooms. The reason, he said, was that "we liked the Crestron technology offerings, customer service, training, continuing education program, partnership, support – the whole package. We feel that Crestron has invested as much in Coppin as the school has invested in Crestron."

A few examples of the types of spaces in the HHSB include a 100-seat lecture hall, tiered 60-seat mediated classroom, general classrooms, laboratories, distance learning center, and moot courtroom with adjacent control room. Activities include healthcare observation and recording, immersion classroom distance learning, Internet-based classroom teaching systems, and AV presentation and recording.

The 60-seat mediated classroom has a 50" rear projection video wall into which three sources can be fed simultaneously; for example, a surgical procedure can be displayed from one site,



while instructors comment from two other locations. “The Crestron touchpanel makes the most commonly used video wall presets available to the faculty at the press of a single button,” added Holoday.

A typical instructor station includes a Crestron touchpanel and digital document camera mounted in a pull out drawer; gooseneck and wireless microphones; SMART™ Sympodium™; laptop interface; fixed host computer (routed through the Sympodium) and HDTV tuner.

To help facilitate Internet-based teaching, every classroom and lab has a pan/tilt/zoom auto tracking camera. By stepping on a floor mat with an embedded contact closure (located at the podium), the instructor triggers a preset to zoom the camera to that location. A Vaddio TrackVIEW system interfaces with the Crestron control processor, enabling the camera to use visual tracking to follow the instructor’s movements. Ceiling mounted microphones pick up every student/teacher exchange, and the full classroom experience is captured, stored and indexed for replay over the Internet.

Coppin is in the early stages of deploying Crestron RoomView® Server Edition software, a multi-user resource management program that provides an “at-a-glance” view of the entire control system network. RoomView functionality will include the ability to manage and control connected AV resources from any computer on the network; perform remote system diagnostics and track projector lamp usage; the generation of network activity logs, and automated event scheduling.

