

INTERWRITE SUCCESS

The University of the District of Columbia Washington, D.C.

Interactive Technology Enhances Learning Environment

On the campus of the University of the District of Columbia, many of the 5400 students and 214 faculty members are embracing a new tool that helps create a more dynamic learning environment – The InterWrite Meeting Suite.

Interactive Classroom Environment

Dr. Alford Ottley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, has championed the introduction of the InterWrite MeetingBoard and MeetingPad at the University of the District of Columbia. “We are on a mission to recast the learning pedagogy at the university and the MeetingBoard and MeetingPad have proven to be key components in our drive to create a more interactive approach to education,” says Dr. Ottley.

With its focus on using an interactive teaching strategy, the Law School proved to be a good fit for the initial deployment of the Meeting Suite.

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Law School professors have found that being able use the MeetingBoard to instantly access the wealth of information available on the Internet, such as the latest Supreme Court decision, from the front of the classroom has allowed them to create a more dynamic environment. Further, using InterWrite software to annotate or highlight, the professors

have been able to focus the student on the critical point. As Dr. Ottley notes, “The professors have become enthusiastic about the technology because they see that it is having a real impact. Its simple, the more senses that we impact, sight, sound, the more we can keep the student engaged.”

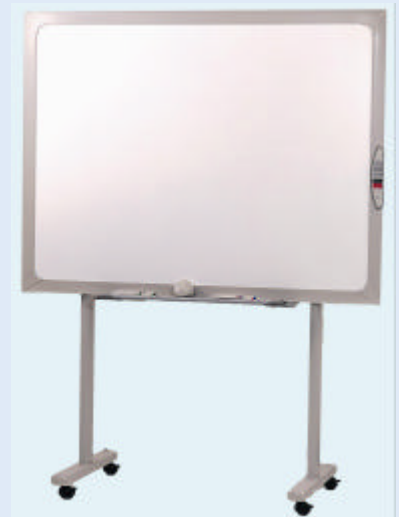
Transforming Education

With the positive experience in the Law School, use of the MeetingSuite has spread to other departments in the university. The MeetingBoard is now being used in several undergraduate courses in the Education and Art departments. In addition, the MeetingPad has been effectively utilized. Some professors enjoy the flexibility that the MeetingPad provides to teach anywhere in the classroom, while others utilize the MeetingPad to engage the students in the lesson. As Dr. Ottley notes, “We are moving away from a model of education where faculty members deliver a traditional lecture and moving toward having the faculty member act in the role of facilitator. With this approach, the students have the responsibility to actively participate and move the discussion along. In this environment where you want the active participation of the students, the MeetingPad absolutely shines.”

The MeetingBoard and MeetingPad have become so popular that Dr. Ottley is getting pressure from faculty members to make the MeetingBoard and MeetingPad more widely available. “Eventually, we will need to equip every classroom with the Meeting Suite,”



Dr Alford Ottley, Associate Vice President For Academic Affairs



InterWrite MeetingBoard

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