

# AGT CASE STUDY

Brenau University

## Background:

Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga., founded in 1878, is a private, not-for-profit, undergraduate and graduate-level higher education institution with multiple campuses and online programs. Brenau University currently enrolls approximately 2,800 students who seek degrees ranging from two-year Associate of Arts through doctorates.

In April 2014, Brenau University received a \$1.5 million grant to upgrade the institution's IT infrastructure, including implementing technology designed to maximize the school's instructional resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.brenau.edu/>.

## Industry:

Education

## Challenge:

Some of Brenau University's courses, especially those dedicated to specialized fields of study, draw enrollment from only a select number of students every semester. A few years ago at Brenau University, specialized classes at some of the campuses had to be cancelled when not enough students signed up. Unfortunately, many students that were spread across the campuses needed to take the cancelled classes to earn credit toward their chosen degree. Brenau, a tech-savvy school that started offering online courses in 2002, wanted to provide the classes and serve those dedicated students, but didn't have an easy way to allow a single instructor to teach students at each of the school campuses simultaneously.

When the time came to upgrade some Brenau classrooms from old projectors and PCs that could only serve students in the room, the instructional technology support team began researching technologies that could instead serve students on all the campuses at once. They researched several video conferencing solutions, but determined they would need to combine at least two manufacturers to get the collaborative functionality they sought.

## Solution:

Brenau University wanted an all-in-one device that combined video calling, sharing presentations and note taking. They decided to standardize on InFocus Mondopad, the large-format touchscreen display with an on-board Windows PC and built-in collaboration apps for executive-quality video calling, digital white boarding and Internet browsing. With Mondopad, a teacher could share and write on a presentation over a video call and teach not only the students in the room, but those in the satellite locations as well.

Once the device was selected, Brenau needed to hire an audio visual integrator for project management, installation and programming of nearly 60 Mondopads. After evaluating several integrators, AGT was ultimately chosen to support the Mondopad implementation across multiple campuses and departments. AGT managed the project by bringing in dozens of Mondopads in-house and handled Mondopad firmware updates, Mondopad software updates, Windows updates and configured the basic preferences settings requested by Brenau's IT Department. In addition, AGT identified a design and implementation plan to ensure each campus' install would be complete in one day. Therefore, disruption of existing class schedules was minimized.



e: [info@appliedglobal.com](mailto:info@appliedglobal.com) p: 1-800-482-9385 w: [www.appliedglobal.com](http://www.appliedglobal.com)



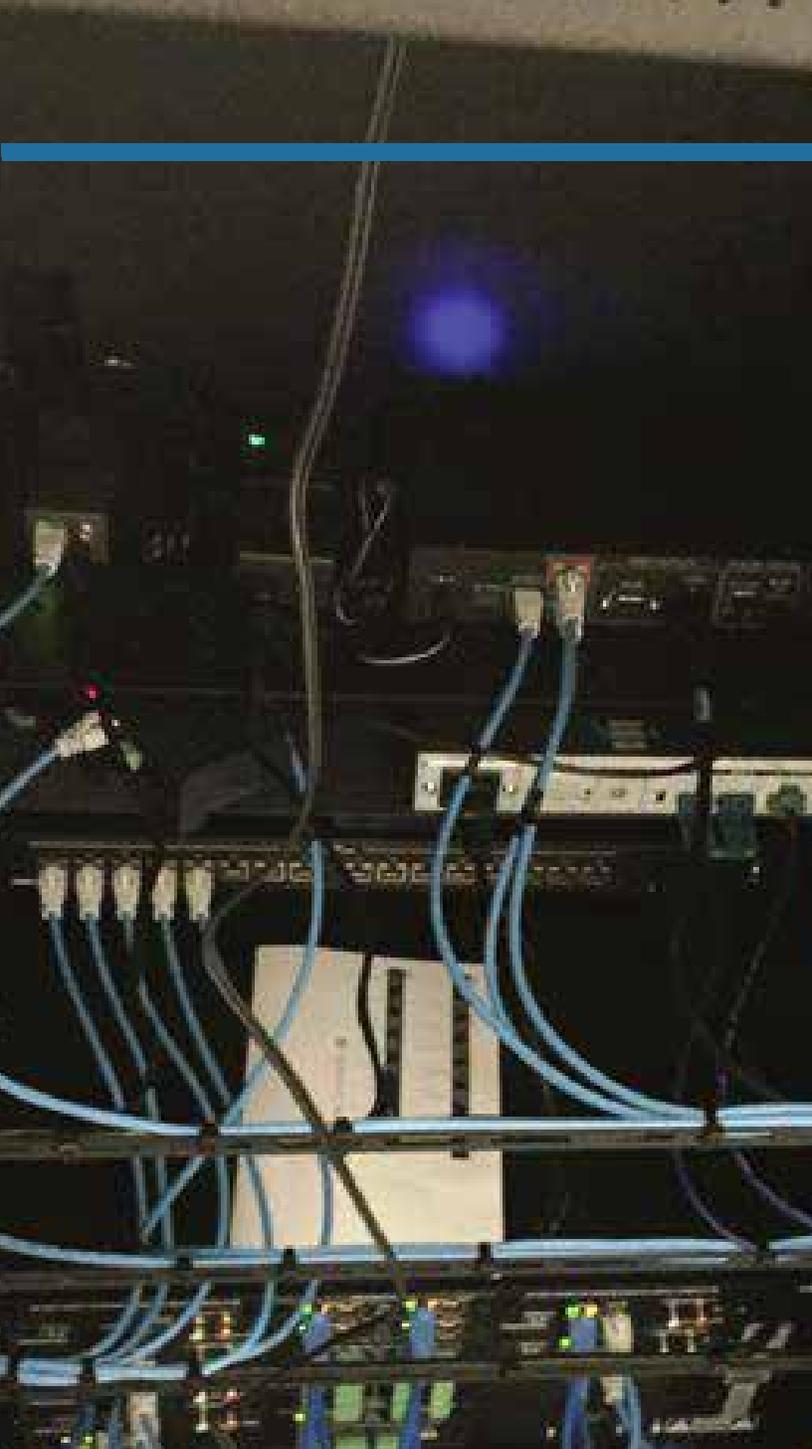


In addition to minimizing classroom disruption, identifying Brenau's overall goals, objectives and budget was a top priority for AGT when putting together the recommended scope of work. Creating an efficient environment that works with each individual department and classroom, while also creating a way for instructors and students to learn in a creative and interactive manner, was imperative. In some cases, AGT needed to integrate Mondopads into rooms with existing audio visual systems where Mondopad(s) will replace local laptop or tower PCs while seamlessly connecting with existing infrastructure. One example includes the school's Clinical Human Anatomy Lab, which is equipped with multiple Mondopads in a large, open lab environment with multiple workstations. The final setup includes:

- Three (3) Mondopads mounted on the wall in three (3) separate areas dedicated to different surgical tables in the lab. Two (2) of the tables, which often hold cadavers to demonstrate real-life surgical procedures, are located relatively close to each other and share a single ceiling mount camera, which aims down and can project on the Mondopads or two (2) standard 70" displays. This gives students a bird's-eye-view of the medical procedure being demonstrated.
- Two (2) standard 70" displays with local connectivity for a laptop, which enable the instructor to present and distribute content to any Mondopad or standard display in the space.
- Wall-mounted Crestron Touch Panel for system control and routing of audio and video signals.
- Crestron DigitalMedia switcher located in equipment closet adjacent to the lab.
- Four (4) ceiling speakers to reproduce audio from multimedia content from any Mondopad, PC or external source.

Dan Odom, the instructional technology support technician dedicated to managing the university's 60 Mondopads, explained a few reasons Brenau uses the device. "[Mondopad] combines all the necessary [video conferencing and touchscreen] components into a single, easy-to-use system. It has the ability to run any software our instructors need for hosting webinars and making lecture recordings, and acts as a class presentation tool in addition to its video conferencing abilities. It has enhanced audio and video calling capabilities that compared with SIP/H.323 conferencing systems costing five times as much."

Odom continues, "AGT's audio visual integration expertise helped us achieve our goal of maximizing the school's instructional resources with forward-thinking technology that can reach educators and students on campus and off. The design, project management and customer service we have received from AGT during the Mondopad implementation has been top-notch. We look forward to working with AGT as they continue to support our campus and Mondopad environment."



## Results:

From mathematics to psychology, anatomy to music, and interior design to the dance studio, classrooms on all eight Brenau University campuses have Mondopads to help educate students across the room and across the region at the same time. According to Odom, standardizing on Mondopads and working with AGT has greatly improved Brenau's educational capabilities.

"Mondopads have improved the organization and learning by allowing Brenau to better communicate, collaborate, and be more interactive with students both on campus, online, and across multiple locations all across the state," said Odom. "It has allowed us to close the gap of remote students not being able to attend a class that was offered at another campus, and instructors being able to teach a class not only locally or online but also to remote campus classrooms."

He said students are eager to interact with the device and it has helped teachers create a better, more interactive, hands-on teaching environment for the students to learn in. "Ultimately, we want to have a Mondopad in every classroom on every campus," said Odom.

"AGT's goal with any integration project is to provide clients with collaborative environments tailored to their specific needs, which is exactly what we were able to do for Brenau University," says Mark Cray, CEO of AGT. "With several unique learning environments needing an upgrade, we came up with a design and installation plan that included a quick turnaround time and seamless integration with Mondopad. Our team was able to get Brenau's Mondopads up and running with very little class disruption, allowing Brenau teachers and students to expand and focus on their education initiatives."

To learn more about AGT and its audio visual design and integration expertise, please visit [www.appliedglobal.com](http://www.appliedglobal.com) and contact [salesteam@appliedglobal.com](mailto:salesteam@appliedglobal.com)

# THE EXPERT AV INTEGRATORS

e: [info@appliedglobal.com](mailto:info@appliedglobal.com) p: 1-800-482-9385 w: [www.appliedglobal.com](http://www.appliedglobal.com)

