

## **Innovation, Leadership, and Student Success Grant**

### **Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality Laboratory for Instruction**

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#### **Abstract**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has already made a strong foray into the electronic technology of distance and electronic pedagogy through the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Podcast project. The proposed lab extends our current technological capabilities to enable us to broadcast live a classroom instructor situated in any of a cornucopia of potential classroom settings, settings that can vary from the artwork and architecture of the Canterbury Cathedral to the plains of the Serengeti, and beyond! Extending our ability by virtually moving the classroom situation into particular settings and by virtually presenting a three-dimensional image of the object of study are the next logical steps. The proposed School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities is the perfect home for these capabilities.

Our VR teaching lab will not only deploy these technologies in teaching, but will also take these technologies and their pedagogies themselves as objects of research and study; thus, we both gain the student success advantages of such engagement, and advance the field, ensuring that SIU has a place in the list of programs advancing these forefronts of knowledge. SIU will define the nexus of technology, pedagogy, and student success.

The widespread shift to online instruction precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic adds another layer of urgency and promises another layer of benefits from this timely project. This moment is propitious, for either we advance or we fall behind. This proposal seeks to ensure that we advance, and that we do so in the vanguard.