



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION: Hattiesburg, MS

TYPE: Public

FOUNDED: 1910

STUDENTS: 16,000

FACULTY: 2,380

www.usm.edu



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—Joel Holder
Audio Service Multimedia Manager,
University of Southern Mississippi

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Southern Miss Hits Target With Epson 3LCD PowerLite® Projectors

Hurricane Katrina unleashed its fury on the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, but it couldn't dampen the spirit of the university called Southern Miss. With nearly 2,380 faculty members serving approximately 16,000 students, Southern Miss is known for its outstanding southern hospitality, research, fine arts, athletic prowess, Mississippi mockingbirds and magnolias.

Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

After the Gulf Park campus sustained over \$30 million in damage from Katrina, Joel Holder, an audio service multimedia manager from the main campus in Hattiesburg, worked closely with the shell-shocked, yet forward-thinking Gulf Park campus IT team, located 90 miles from the main campus. "After Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed the multimedia classrooms at our Gulf Park campus, I advised our sister campus to start anew and standardize on Epson 3LCD projectors," said Holder. The university tested the projectors for its various teaching and research sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and was pleased with the results.

“ Technology is changing daily, and our IT department must constantly adapt. With companies like Epson advancing technology, we are confident that Southern Miss will stay a front-runner.”

Keeping It Simple

Thankful that hurricanes are not part of a typical workday, Holder finds life working in the busy technology department in Hattiesburg especially stimulating. He is always ready to roll up his sleeves and solve the latest technical challenge. Part of the ever-expanding Southern Miss technology team, Holder is also first in line when it comes to finding better ways of doing things. One such day was when the university decided to standardize most of its classrooms with Epson 3LCD PowerLite multimedia projectors.

Adjusting Focus

In the past, the university used a variety of projectors, which were not always easy to track and maintain. "From a management and training perspective, it just didn't make sense," said Holder. "Instructors didn't always know what projectors they would be using." Whether showing PowerPoint or a video presentation to a class, no one really knew what quality to expect. Unlike today, most of the projectors were circulating on carts, which meant that a tech staffer had to load, deliver and later pick up the equipment. "We knew that we had to find a better classroom projector solution," said Holder.



Bringing College Lectures to Life

Today, many of the Epson projectors are ceiling mounted and used in nearly half of the main campus's 186 classrooms, including multimedia classrooms, interactive video classrooms, conference rooms, larger lecture halls and auditoriums. The 3LCD projectors add vibrant color and detail to the everyday Southern Miss college lecture, with up to 3,500 lumens of color and white light output.* Bringing life to class presentations, the 3LCD technology delivers true-to-life image quality, with accurate color registration, and detailed video and data images.

Wireless Monitoring

Using Epson's EMP Monitor software, Holder's staff can also easily manage all networked PowerLite® projectors throughout the campus from one location. "Using wireless or wired LAN, we can remotely perform many functions that we used to do in person," he said. "We save time and money by taking care of technical issues—including picture adjustments and input selections—remotely in real time." The software can even be preset to send email alerts to users if a projector needs attention.

Maintenance is also easy because of the high reliability and "great ongoing support I get from Epson," said Holder. The Epson projectors offer up to 50 percent more lamp life than competitive models.** Low wattage lamps, low energy consumption, and protective dust filters all prolong projector life and contribute to a lower total cost of ownership.

Future Plans

Although some projectors are still available on carts, Holder's objective is to have every Southern Miss classroom equipped with a ceiling-mounted Epson 3LCD projector. "We're looking at different avenues to achieve that goal," he said. The multimedia classrooms now include the ceiling-mounted projectors, interactive pen displays, desktop computers, DVD/VCR players, port switchers and document cameras.

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*Light output varies depending on modes (color light output and white light output).

**Lamp life results will vary depending on mode selected, environmental conditions, and usage. Lamp brightness decreases over time.

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