

Case study

St. Catherine University

HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook™ devices, ProDesk PCs support educational mission



Industry

Education

Objective

Provide learning environment of uncompromised quality within budget

Approach

Deploy HP desktop PCs with AMD processors in offices and computer labs, and equip teachers with HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabooks

IT matters

- Faster boot, lighter weight EliteBook Ultrabooks unencumber faculty
- Enable classroom content creation, display
- Desktop PCs handle demanding academic applications
- AMD processors in desktop PCs deliver cost-efficient power

Business matters

- Raise faculty productivity, satisfaction
- Empower students with application-rich desktops
- Deploy powerful technologies within budget
- Leverage technology to fulfill educational mission

HP recommends Windows.



“We are committed to keeping up to date so that technology supports learning instead of hindering it. HP is our current choice for both desktop and notebook PCs.”

– John Jeries, CIO, St. Catherine University



St. Catherine University (St. Kate’s) was founded in St. Paul, Minn., in 1905 by the Sisters of St. Joseph. St. Kate’s integrates liberal arts and professional education to prepare ethical leaders who combine intellectual flexibility with practical ingenuity. To support this goal, the University provides students, faculty, and staff with the latest technology tools, emphasizing cost-efficiency as well as high performance and user satisfaction. Those priorities led the University to choose HP desktop and notebook PCs.

HP recommends Windows.

A multifaceted Catholic institution, St. Catherine University provides liberal arts and professional undergraduate education for women, as well as graduate and associate programs for women and men. The University enrolls more than 5000 students and employs 328 tenured professors. Its four schools—Business and Professional Studies; Humanities, Arts and Sciences; Henrietta Schmoll School of Health; and Social Work—are home to more than 100 fields of study, including Nursing, Social Work, and Business Administration.

St. Kate's mission retains the University's historic three foundational pillars: roots in the Catholic intellectual tradition, emphasis on the liberal arts, and a focus on the needs and aspirations of women. The University is committed to leveraging the latest technologies to provide the best possible educational environment for students, teachers, and administrative staff. St. Kate's upgraded its wireless network to provide fast Internet access across campus, in classrooms and residence halls alike. Every year, it refreshes one third of its campus PCs, awarding contracts on the basis of quality, features and cost. Recently, St. Kate's chose HP as its standard for both desktop and notebook PCs. "We upgrade our technology constantly, to ensure that it supports learning instead of hindering it," says John Jeries, St. Catherine CIO. "The goals are to support staff productivity and to provide students with powerful educational tools—all within budget."

"Providing the best tools not only supports our education mission," he adds, "it's also a factor in the recruitment and retention of students and staff. Quality matters."

Fast, lightweight, powerful mobility

When choosing technology solutions, St. Kate's listens closely to what end users need and desire. In an age of lightweight tablets, faculty members did not want to lug around five pound notebook PCs. They wanted light weight, fast boot times, long battery life, VGA video connections to link to classroom projectors, and the ability to create video content to post online for students. St. Kate's reviewed models from three different vendors, and chose the HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook. "The difference between the Ultrabook and any PC we've had before is weight and speed," Jeries says. "It's ultra light, but capable of running applications with very heavy processing needs."

"How do we measure success? Faster boot, longer life, satisfied users—all within budget," Jeries says. "HP helps us leverage technology, like EliteBooks, to further the mission and goals of the university."

– John Jeries, CIO, St. Catherine University

Faculty members like to prepare video demonstrations for students to view online outside of the classroom, Jeries says—it's part of how St. Kate's stays on the leading edge of educational innovation. In previous notebook models, the images lacked high-definition clarity and did not synchronize well with the audio. The HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook solves that problem, freeing faculty to create high-quality content. St. Kate's Ultrabooks also feature solid state drives, and therefore boot up within 10 to 15 seconds. Previous devices took as long as a minute—precious time when a teacher is standing in front of a classroom. The battery life is roughly twice as long. Jeries says users work unplugged for up to eight hours, long enough to last a work day, which is especially useful when staff travels to conferences or special events.

"Every time we refreshed notebooks, we bought a newer and better and faster device. With the HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook, we got all that plus the added satisfaction of very light weight."

– John Jeries, CIO, St. Catherine University

Like all HP EliteBooks, the Ultrabook is durably designed for heavy business use. In addition, St. Kate's solid state drives are more energy-efficient, supporting University environmental goals. Andrea J. Lee, IHM, president of St. Catherine, has signed The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Jeries says that faculty members have approached him to say how much they like their new HP EliteBooks.

Customer at a glance

Application

Content creation and classroom functions for teachers; computer labs for students

Hardware

- HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook
- HP Compaq Pro 6305 Business PC with AMD A Series Quad Core Processor

HP services

- HP Care Pack 3yr

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“The HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabook has increased my efficiency and helped reduce strain on my shoulder joints. It combines the power and capabilities of a top-quality notebook with the portability of a tablet. Simply stated, it is wonderful!”

— Margaret Dexheimer Pharris, associate dean for Nursing and professor, Henrietta Schmoll School of Health, St. Catherine University

“Switching to the EliteBook Folio Ultrabook has increased my efficiency and helped reduce strain on my shoulder joints,” says Margaret Dexheimer Pharris, associate dean for Nursing and professor at St. Catherine University’s Henrietta Schmoll School of Health. “The Ultrabook combines the power and capabilities of a top-quality notebook with the portability of a tablet, and it facilitates rapid note taking during meetings. Due to its light weight, the device is easily transported between offices, meetings, and home. Simply stated, it is wonderful!”

Offices, computer labs deploy desktop PCs

In offices and computer labs, St. Catherine needs reliable desktop PCs with the performance power to handle demanding applications such as the statistical analysis package SPSS and simulation programs used by science departments. “Nursing is different from biology, which is different from psychology in the applications they use,” Jeries says. “We need a desktop PC that can handle it all.”

The University chose the HP Compaq Pro series and ProDesk series, which features

advanced graphics and long lifecycle, and is equipped with cost-efficient AMD A-series processors. “We needed quad core, 8 gigs of RAM, along with a 1 gig MIC (Modular Interface Card), and a number of USB ports,” Jeries says. “This model had plenty of ports, processing, and RAM. The AMD quad processors provide high quality at an affordable price point for our budget.”

The devices also work well with Microsoft® System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), the tool St. Kate’s uses to install software and manage its systems, Jeries says. The University has deployed approximately 500 HP Compaq Pro Business PCs and 250 HP EliteBook Folio Ultrabooks. HP representatives help St. Kate’s select the optimal models for the University’s needs, and provide test devices to try out. The University purchases its PCs with 3-year HP Care Pack warranty extensions. St. Kate’s also uses HP LED monitors, which provide high quality displays while supporting the university’s energy-efficiency goals. Virtually all its printers are from HP as well. When PCs reach end of life, St. Kate’s wipes the hard drives and donates the devices to charities for use by low-income families.

“The AMD quad processors provide high quality desktop PCs at an affordable price point for our budget.”

— John Jeries, CIO, St. Catherine University

Routinely St. Catherine evaluates devices for its next round of refreshes. It works with HP about options—secure in the knowledge that HP representatives bring a broad portfolio and the expertise to recommend suitable options. “How do we measure success? Faster boot, longer life, satisfied users—all within budget,” Jeries says. “HP helps us leverage technology, like EliteBooks, to further the mission and goals of the University.”

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