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Three higher ed institutions have been recognized for their innovative uses of technology by the judges of the 2012 AMX Innovation Awards. The Stanford University School of Medicine, the Academic Technologies department of George Washington University, and the Wake Forest Schools of Business have been named this year’s winners.

The awards, announced at UBTech 2012 at Las Vegas in June, were established by AMX and the University Business Leadership Institute to recognize members of the AMX Education Alliance for transforming education through innovative accomplishments and practices. AMX products and services simplify technology implementation, use and maintenance. The three winning institutions will receive a combined total of $100,000 worth of AMX equipment.

The Stanford University School of Medicine received the Automation and Control Award for the wide array of technology included in the school’s new Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge. The Center includes 20 new learning spaces outfitted with HD cameras and projectors, fully integrated audio, lighting, power and source controls, a state-of-the-art lecture capture system and AMX interactive control processors and touch panels.

The Academic Technologies department at George Washington University received the Collaboration Initiatives Award for the design of the addition to the School of Public Health and Health Sciences building, and a new research and teaching facility for science and engineering. These new facilities include multiple collaborative learning spaces using LCD screens, projectors, document cameras and AMX touch panels, and a Nursing Simulation Lab that uses a variety of technologies to provide students with valuable experience in a simulated emergency medical facility.

The new Charlotte Center campus of Wake Forest University’s Schools of Business received the Connected Campus Award. The new campus was designed with a diverse A/V infrastructure to connect seamlessly to the Wake Forest main campus in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from a newly renovated uptown Charlotte facility in which space for A/V components was at a premium. The installation utilized AMX switchers, servers and digital signage to create a seamless videoconferencing environment using a unified platform that required fewer components than other solutions, greatly reducing costs.

Representatives from each winning institution plan on using the AMX equipment that comes with the awards to continue enhancing their campuses with technology that improves teaching and learning.

### AMX Innovation Awards: At a Glance

**Q:** What are AMX Innovation Awards?
**A:** AMX Innovation Awards are honors bestowed on individuals and institutions that have changed higher education through the innovative use of technology.

**Q:** How are recipients selected?
**A:** One winner is selected for each of three categories: Automation and Control, Collaboration Initiatives and The Connected Campus.

**Q:** Is there a financial reward?
**A:** The winner of the Automation and Control award receives $50,000 in AMX technology and equipment. The winners of the Collaboration Initiatives and Connected Campus awards each receive $25,000 in AMX technology and equipment.

**Q:** Who sponsors the awards?
**A:** AMX, which provides solutions to simplify the implementation, maintenance and use of technology in education; and the AMX Education Alliance, which is designed to build community among education leaders and industry experts around the world.

**Q:** Who can apply for the awards?
**A:** Applications may come from any member of the AMX Education Alliance, a free program available to new and existing college and university customers of AMX.

**Q:** When are applications being accepted for the next round of awards?
**A:** Entries are now being accepted for the 2013 AMX Innovation Awards, to be presented at UBTech 2013 at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida. Entries will be received until midnight, May 4, 2013.

**Q:** Where can I learn more?
**A:** To join the AMX Education Alliance, visit www.amxallies.com.

For information about the AMX Innovation Awards, visit www.universitybusiness.com/innovationawards.
Students in the Net generation enter higher education with an expectation that cutting-edge technology will be a force in their academic experience, but its use comes with strict requirements at George Washington University, which in 2007 made a commitment to creating a more collaborative learning environment.

“Technology needs to advance learning and engage students,” says P.B. Garrett, associate provost and chief academic technology officer for the university. “George Washington University is supportive of transformative pedagogical and curricular innovations that advance teaching and learning, which include new technology-enhanced active learning environments.”

Meeting this challenge became ever more pressing when the school started to see tremendous growth, and plans emerged for an addition to its School of Public Health and Health Science Building and the construction of a new 700,000-square-foot research and teaching facility.

The university designed four new spaces that would also be used as models for future interactive learning environments. The largest is an 81-seat space that allows students to work in small groups, and features whiteboard walls, LCD screens, projection screens, PTZ cameras and ceiling mounted cameras. An AMX touch panel gives faculty members the ability to manage a wide range of audiovisual equipment. Two smaller spaces—one of which was dedicated to library use—rely on a variation of this design.

“We tried all different technologies, from super high-tech components to more conventional tools, as a way of assessing their effectiveness from a teaching and support standpoint,” explains John Arpino, assistant director of engineering research and development at George Washington University. “These projects are models for our future collaborative learning space designs.”

The fourth space is a facility that uses AMX technology to help simulate a real-world emergency medical environment for nursing students. The facility, which includes 10 patient beds, two examining rooms and one studio apartment, has two audiovisual control rooms that rely on AMX’s latest technology, including MXT touch panels, TPI-Pro presentation interfaces and Enova DGX digital media switches. Cameras and microphones situated at each station record students’ bedside interactions, which can be reviewed synchronously or asynchronously.

These innovations earned George Washington University the AMX Collaboration Initiatives Award.

“The technology improvements we made signify an important shift in the teaching style of the university—one that’s active and engaging,” says Arpino. “Being recognized with the award signifies that we’re going in the right direction.”

Students would seem to agree. “I heard one freshman who entered the Ames Hall library for the first time say, ‘If I knew that the Mount Vernon campus had technology like this, I would have applied to live here.’ ” Arpino adds.

“It’s exciting to be at a university that sees technology as a means to transform education.”

“The initial installation has been a learning process for all of us—administration, faculty, and staff,” says Arpino, “but the buy-in has been across the board. It’s exciting to be at a university that sees technology as a means to transform education.”

The recently redesigned learning spaces are now serving as prototypes for a new large-scale research and teaching facility for science and engineering, which is slated to open for the spring semester of 2014.

The $25,000 in AMX technology and equipment that comes with the award will contribute to the school’s development.