CompuCycling

Using sustainability practices to further Towson University’s commitment to the surrounding community

Mike Scribner
Classroom and Computer Lab Technologies Coordinator
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Manager Distributed Support and Services
THE PROGRAM

WHAT IS COMPUCYCLING?

www.towson.edu/compucycle
CUT BACK ON WASTE AND REAP THE REWARDS

Reuse of computer technology extends the lifecycle of existing computers and decreases the need to purchase new.

- Over 760 computers repurposed
- Over 6,600 lbs of digital waste diverted for Reuse on Campus
- Fulfill unmet needs
- Over $359,000 saved
- Over 1000 hours of volunteer work
THE PROBLEM

• **Unutilized Surplus Computers**
  • 600+ Units Per Fiscal Year

• **Dispose? Store? ReDeploy?**

• **What do we do with computers after Towson University’s needs are met?**

• **Ethical Obligations**

• **Environmental Regulation**

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GROWING PAINS

DEVELOPING A PILOT

• Finding Storage and Workspace
• Arranging Funding
• Justifying the Program
• Finding Volunteers

APPROVED UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

• Buy-in from Staff and Stakeholders
• Marketing and Communications
• Keeping up with the Demand
• Inventory Management

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE POAC

PROGRAM OUTREACH & ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

• Administration & Finance Division
  • Office of Technology Services
  • Materiel Management Office
  • Office of Sustainability

• Academic Affairs Division
  • College of Liberal Arts
  • College of Education
  • College of Science and Mathematics

• Student Affairs

• University Admissions
VOLUNTEERS

• Towson University Students
• Hussman Center Adults with Autism Participants
• Office of Civic Engagement and Leadership
  • Class Service Learning Program
• Building Steps
• Towson Internships
  • Capstone Projects
• K-12 Public School Students
  • Towson High School Students

Volunteers are not paid, not because they’re worthless, ....but because they’re priceless.

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WHY VOLUNTEER?

- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
- HANDS ON WITH TECHNOLOGY
- WORKPLACE SIMULATION
- IMMERSION INTO A COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT
- NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- EARN SERVICE LEARNING HOURS OR CREDIT
- RESUME ENHANCEMENT

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COMPUTER RECYCLING

- **32,235 pounds of Computers & Computer Accessories Sent for Processing in 2014**
  - National Reclamation Inc.
  - 661 Desktops, 143 Laptops, 244 LCD Monitors, 125 CRT Monitors
- Coordination with On-Campus Sustainability Office
- Reduction of Computers Being Sent for Material Recycling
  - 385 Computers Repurposed to Campus
  - 376 Computers Redeployed to Public School Partners

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“The computer lab in room 401 is critical to the production of the THS yearbook, Sidelights. As we move towards a paperless school system, students will rely on the computers to do all of the design and editing online. The Sidelights staff is grateful for the donations that keep our computers up to date so that we are able to continue our online yearbook creation.”

Claire Fluharty – Towson High School – Yearbook Advisor

Towson High School – Yearbook Production
“Towson University’s donation increased the digital photo lab size by nearly double. The eight extra computers in the photo lab allow for more students to work on their digital images using Photoshop and students are able to see the best images with dual DVI video outputs. In addition, I have noticed these machines are quicker at rendering. So for higher power needs, like photographic panorama, where students are stitching multiple images together, or scanning a high resolution film negative, I will have the students use the Towson University donated computers. The computers have been critical in creating time efficiencies and providing greater production effectiveness.”

Noah Belt – Towson High School - Visual Advisor
CAMPUS IMPACT

Dr. Nathan Sharer
University Counseling Center

- Coordinator for Men’s and Veteran's Affairs
- Technology Coordinator
CAMPUS IMPACT

Asst. Professor Jeff Larson

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice
**CRACKING THE BUDGET**

- **Savings from the deployment of refurbished PCs vs. New PCs**
- **Labor Savings from Volunteers**
- **No Brainer!**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Redeploy Costs</th>
<th>Purchase New</th>
<th>Savings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>$35,867</td>
<td>$330,820</td>
<td>$294,953</td>
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</table>

*AND ... Our Fiscal Year doesn’t end till June 30*

*Link to Budget Sheet here*
THE HOW

HOW DID WE DO IT?

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KEY PARTICIPANTS

- Towson University
  - Office of Technology Services
  - Office of Materiel Management
  - Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability
  - Office of Student Affairs
- Hussman Center for Adults with Autism
- Work Exploration Programs
- Baltimore County Public Schools
  - Information Technology Department
  - Work to School Program – Towson High School
- Program Outreach and Advancement Council
THE HISTORY

- All processed through Materiel Management
- Digital assets were either repurposed or disposed
- Lack of long term planning for asset lifespans
  - Utilization of assets
- University strategic objectives
  - Community Outreach
  - Green Initiatives
  - Experiential learning opportunities
- Fulfilling unmet technology needs
- Meeting new budgetary restrictions

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REFURBISHING THE COMPUTERS

- First Refurbishing Session - Spring 2013
- Hussman Center for Adults with Autism
  - Facilitated Work Sessions by OTS Staff
- Repurposing Computers to Public Schools in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area
- The Process
  - Cleaned
  - Inspected
  - Tested
  - Upgraded (Solid State Drives)

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LESSONS LEARNED

- **Volunteer Scheduling**
  - Reliability of Volunteer Base
  - Scheduling Supervision
- **Grant Development**
  - Seeking Local Non-Profits
  - Challenges of Writing Grant Proposals
- **Legal Issues**
  - Background Checks
  - Risk Management
  - Permissions/Liability Forms for Minors

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Next Steps

- Expand partnerships with local public schools
  - Supporting existing technology or leadership initiatives
- Continue building our volunteer base
- Continue funding search
  - Provide transportation to volunteers
  - Parts for computers deployed on & off campus
- Extended education programs
  - Partnership with the College of Education
  - Example curriculum development
  - Bridging the connection between Higher Ed and K-12
- Utilization of redeployed computer assets
  - Determining technology needs
  - Ensuring asset utilization
  - Following up with computer recipients at redeployment locations

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PRESENTATION

• Questions or comments?
• For more information
• Contact us
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  • Michael Scribner (mscribner@towson.edu)
  • Michael Bachman (mbachman@towson.edu)