1. Describe the technology you are requesting.

I am requesting for the Art Department:

- 31 Apple iMac computers for Art Department (and potentially other) classes held in ED#2843B
- 5 Apple iMac computers for outside-of-class use in student computer room (IB#3303)
- 15 Apple iMac computers for graphics/design/print studio in AS#1530

Total computers requested = 51

Description: 20” Apple iMacs; 2.66GHz Intel Core2 Duo processor; 2Gb RAM; 320Gb storage; 8x double-layer SuperDrive CD/DVD: ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256 Mb graphics card. No extra features or add-ons required. Unit cost is $1,399.

Rationale:

- Unreliability & instability of computers in use: The G4 Macs currently in use by the Art Dept. in different locations are rapidly aging and deteriorating. I believe that these are among the oldest (if not the oldest) computers still in service in all of Instruction; none are less than 5 or 6 years old. As a consequence, these Macs are becoming increasingly unreliable/unstable during routine operation. This current situation is demanding greater attention from technical support personnel and faculty to circumvent hardware/software problems during class sessions. In fact, a considerable number of the Macs have already been taken out of service. This trend will no doubt continue with current and future use. With always near-full or full-capacity classes in ED#2843B and AS#1530 every quarter, and continual student demands for working on projects out-of-class in IB#3303 (there are only 3 older Macs in there now), this is truly becoming a critical situation.

- Performance problems: The computers that are now in service are showing limitations in their ability to function efficiently with some of the computation-intensive software we are now running (e.g. Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop CS3), mainly due to combined performance and memory limitations. Generally, routine student projects executed in Illustrator and Photoshop CS3 are taking longer to accomplish in class due to slower processor/memory performance and increasing frequency of applications suddenly freezing/closing. This can and does hinder completion of scheduled projects during the time...
allotted each quarter. [Please note: this is not a Mac platform-specific problem; it’s due to the relative age and specs of these dated computers; comparably older Intel-based PCs would fare no better].

- **Upgradability limitations:** Finally, since the current computers are already showing their limitations in performance and operational reliability, any future software upgrades (e.g. Adobe CS4) are quite unlikely to work efficiently and may even be incapable of running. Certainly, any potential for future use of computation-intensive software (e.g. animation or video apps) would not be feasible on these machines.

Taken together, the end result is certain to be ever-increasing computer malfunctions and critical classroom problems.

I believe new computers/monitors are warranted under these present circumstances and will solve all aspects of the major problems we are now facing, and stave-off potential future limitations. This will tremendously enhance teaching efficiency and student satisfaction, and should greatly lessen demands on support personnel.

**Justification for purchasing new Apple iMacs:**

- **Versatility:** Most Importantly, current breed iMacs are fully capable of running both Mac- and Windows-based software seamlessly. This would potentially open-up classroom use for courses dependent on many types of platform-specific software (e.g. Mac, Windows, Unix, Linux). This is a real advantage in terms of optimizing classroom use in computer-augmented courses.
- **Current software compatibility:** We have Mac versions of Adobe CS3 apps already installed on the art department computers currently in use on campus. Presumably, sticking with the Mac platform will circumvent having to order new Adobe software for PC platforms.
- **Performance:** Extremely good benchmarks for running speed and memory-intensive apps (e.g. Photoshop, video editing software). High quality graphics/video card performance; adaptability to many demanding present and future graphics and/or video apps.
- **Color Management:** For critical graphic output and color accuracy, Macs still offer a superior calibration and color management workflow compared to PCs.
- **Security:** Generally speaking, Macs are more resistant to attack and require less rigorous security protocols than PCs.
- **Reliability & Build Quality:** Stable Unix-based architecture that offers distinct advantages from a support/maintenance standpoint. Quality of materials and construction is good and the Macs seem to hold-up quite well under hard use.
- **Cost effectiveness:** Cost per unit may slightly greater than some comparable PCs, but OS flexibility, longevity, performance, ease-of-use, and durability compensate.

2. **How will the technology benefit students?**

Especially In technology-driven courses, both the quality of teaching effectiveness and degree of student achievement are highly dependent on the available hardware and software in the classroom. At least 9 courses offered by the Art Department can be placed in this category. These include Intro- and Advanced Computer Art, 2D- and 3-D Design, The Art Business, Intro- and Advanced Digital Photography, Visualizing Science and Technology, and Printmaking courses. Thus, aside from the individual performance of the instructor(s) and the structure of the course curricula, the success of these courses from the standpoint of student satisfaction and learning success greatly depends on how well the technology performs its function in the classroom. This is a vital issue, since each quarter many students (perhaps hundreds) filter through the various art department courses that depend on computer-based instruction, and this includes students of every curriculum, major, and degree program. Decreased performance in these classes due to
technical difficulties or limitations would severely affect their educational experience and, potentially, their future careers. In some classroom situations, and with increasing frequency, this is already beginning to happen.

Currently, we have excellent software programs (Adobe CS3) installed on Macintosh computers for the above courses taught. However, it’s becoming increasingly apparent that the computers are beginning to falter and become less reliable during the utilization of these (and other) apps. This is resulting in more downtime in the classroom, increased student frustration, greater demands on technical support staff and, predictably, decreased teaching effectiveness in the curricula offered. I strongly feel that acquiring new computers for these (and potentially other) courses will help insure that the quality of education students receive will remain high and lead to greater effectiveness on the part of the instructors and support staff.

3. Cost (including tax, shipping and handling) __$78,484__ (see attached budget sheet for cost breakdown)

If you have questions please contact:
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Or visit the UTF website @ www.northseattle.edu/utf