

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

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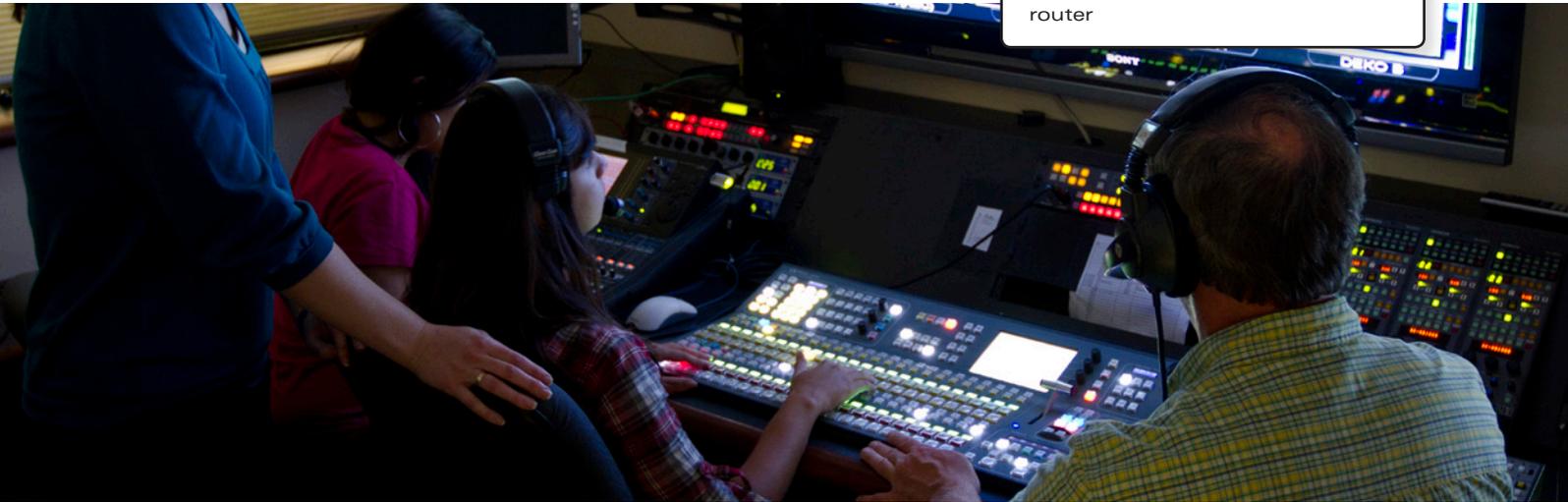
Lindenwood University
St. Charles, MO, US

APPLICATION:

Hands-on video production training.

EQUIPMENT:

Kayak HD 2 M/E switcher
(48 inputs/24 outputs)
Concerto Series 64x64 HD-SDI router



BACKGROUND

When students at Lindenwood University, in St. Charles, MO, graduate from the School of Communications program, they not only have a comprehensive, hands-on understanding of what it takes to operate professional video equipment, but they actually get jobs in the real world.

Under the guidance of Associate Professor Peter Carlos, Station Manager, and Ed Voss, Director of Operations (and Assistant Professor), Communications department students create programming for the Lindenwood University Television (LUTV) channel, which is distributed locally through cable TV (Charter Communications), telco TV (AT&T U-verse), and the Internet. It's a Public Access channel that every week

features three 15-minute live newscasts, as well as a variety of live sports and talk shows spotlighting the school and regional subjects during the school year.

KAYAK & CONCERTO GO TO SCHOOL

In 2008, the school built new production and teaching facilities, now called The Charter Communications High-Definition Studio, within the school's Scheidegger Center Building, to support its educational mission. The state-of-the-art HD facility includes a main control room—based around a Grass Valley™ 2 M/E Kayak™ HD switcher with 48-inputs/24 outputs—and a production studio, and several edit rooms all fed by a Grass Valley Concerto™ Series 64x64 HD-SDI router.

Because of its renowned reliability, that Grass Valley equipment has been working steadily ever since it was installed, getting a “full workout,” according to Voss, by the hundreds of student operators in the Communications program.

According to Voss, the Kayak is used virtually every day during the school year and it has never failed once. While they've had several power outages and other disruptions in their studio, the Kayak and Concerto have never gone down, standing up to the punishment of students using it as they learn.

One of the best features of the Kayak for Voss is that it's adaptable to anything they want it to do. For example, they find the routing capability of the Kayak switcher particularly useful as they often feed four HD monitors in their studio: one on the news set, one on a sports set, another on an interview set, and the fourth on a roll-around cart. This helps the crew monitor what's going on in the studio and also creates a nice backdrop for their programs.

“With the flexibility of the Kayak’s routing features, our students can distribute different signals to the monitors and configure them in a variety of ways—very quickly. They also routinely create multi-layered effects and high-end segments that, for viewers, add value to the shows they produce.”

Ed Voss, Director of Operations/Assistant Professor,
School of Communications, Lindenwood University

“The menus are very easy to get to and activate. We’re very pleased with how intuitive the panel interface is. It makes our jobs as teachers that much easier and gives students a great learning experience, one that they will take with them when they graduate.”

Ed Voss, Director of Operations/Assistant Professor,
School of Communications, Lindenwood University

Training students on the Kayak and Concerto has always been very easy, once students get the hang of how to program the various features. Although it’s a professional broadcast switcher, Voss finds that students can move around the panel pretty easily, making heavy use of the Kayak’s M/E recall functions, which allows students to simply push pre-set buttons and begin producing programs immediately.

Students have also enjoyed experimenting with the Kayak and creating shows that go well beyond a simple three-camera production.

The school’s facilities are well respected within the area and it is often called on to help with local TV productions. Students recently participated in a major fundraising drive for PBS. Students helped produce celebrity interviews (like Tony Twist, Malcolm McDowell, Bobby Goldsboro, and Don King) in the school’s large theater that were used as inserts to the main program feed. The St. Louis PBS member station, KETC, was so impressed with the University’s studio, they used their equipment and students to produce a NewsHour program.

The reason the Lindenwood purchased the Grass Valley Kayak and Concerto is simple: it’s the same equipment used professionally in the outside world, and the equipment recommended to the university by all the local stations in the area to most prepare students for the working world. That’s why they often get asked to support other productions.

Voss said local viewers have commented that the school’s programs are as good as any they see on any other TV channel. That’s due, in part, to the fact that the entire faculty has worked in professional production at one time in their careers. Voss has worked in live sports television and spent 15 years as an operations engineer with the local FOX affiliate, LUTV’s news director, Jill Falk, is from the CBS affiliate in Lansing, MI., and Carlos is a veteran of live television, corporate, and Hollywood-based productions.

As proof of the school’s success in training students for the real world, during the recent disastrous tornados that touched down in nearby Joplin, MO, one of the Communications students (who works part-time for a local production company called Spot Media Transfer), was contracted by ABC News and the Weather Channel to help cover the aftermath.

Lindenwood University, founded in 1827, is an independent liberal arts university offering 84 undergraduate degree programs and 37 graduate programs in diverse areas of study in traditional and accelerated formats.

Lindenwood operates a residential campus in historic St. Charles, as well as 10 extension sites throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

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