

Press Release

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Technology Spending by Higher Ed Projected at Nearly \$7 Billion

Significant Increases Seen in Hardware Expenditures

Shelton, CT, February 16, 2006 – Recouping the declines experienced last year, technology spending by colleges and universities is projected to increase 35% in 2005-2006. According to MDR in its research report, *The College Technology Review, 2005-2006 Academic Year*, overall spending will be \$6.94 billion. Public institutions have budgeted an average of \$1,579,464 for technology this year, up 20% compared with last year, while the private sector has set aside an average of \$1,255,755 per institution, an increase of 26%.

The largest growth category is hardware—up 41% compared with last year—for a total of \$3.4 billion. Overall, hardware accounts for one-half of the total spent on technology, followed by 23% each for software and for outside services. While hardware represents the largest share of both academic and administrative technology spending, this year's increase is primarily for academic hardware. In 2005-2006, more than \$2 billion will be spent by colleges and universities on hardware used for academic purposes.

In addition to data on technology spending and budgets for different types and sizes of institutions, *The College Technology Review* provides information on brand preferences for computers and networks and use of other forms of technology. Among the key findings of this comprehensive report are the following:

Campus Networks and Computers

- Wireless networks are available on 86% of the nation's campuses—nearly double the rate first reported five years ago.
- Nearly two-thirds of institutions utilize only one network system, continuing the trend toward single-network adoptions. At these single-network institutions, various Windows systems (2003, 2000, and NT) dominate the list (at 64%), followed by Novell (21%), UNIX (5%), Linux (3%), and Mac OS (1%).
- More than three out of four institutions report a single brand of choice for computer hardware. Dell is the brand of choice for 62%, up three percentage points compared with last year. Gateway is the brand of choice for 13% of institutions. HP/Compaq, IBM, Mac/Apple, MPC, and other brands account for the remainder.

Internet Access and Distance Learning

- The use of the Internet for administrative functions continues to grow. Nine out of ten institutions allow students to apply online for admission, and three out of four institutions provide online financial aid applications and online registration for classes.
- Internet access is provided to students in computer labs (at 95% of colleges), libraries (92%), classrooms (65%), student centers (55%), and dormitories (47%).
- Most institutions (92%) utilize some type of course management system, with the most popular being Blackboard (used by 47% of the colleges with a preferred brand), followed by WebCT (30%).
- Distance learning is offered at 68% of all colleges and universities; 61% of these offer an accredited degree in at least one subject.

The College Technology Review is based on the results of MDR's ninth annual technology survey to more than 5,600 accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities. Completed in October 2005, the survey had a response rate of 21%. The report sells for \$49 for a single-use PDF, \$149 for a multiuse PDF. For additional information, contact MDR at 800-333-8802 or go to www.schooldata.com.

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