



Culinary School Serves Full Course Via Vaddio

FEATURED PRODUCTS

- » RoboSHOT® 20 UHD Camera
- » AV Bridge
- » OneLINK HDMI

A new culinary program at Yavapai College uses Vaddio equipment to give students the big picture.

CHALLENGE

The Sedona campus of Yavapai College renovated facilities and updated program offerings in anticipation of the 2017-2018 academic year. Extensive research pointed to a need for better culinary education programs to aid the large hospitality industry in Sedona, Arizona, that serves tourists visiting the area's majestic Old West landscapes.

"The idea was that we could take existing space and convert that into two state-of-the-art culinary kitchens, one on the savory side and one on the baking and pastry side," said Dr. James Perey, Executive Dean for the Verde Valley Campus at Yavapai College.

College leaders visited culinary schools around the country and came back with a clear directive to incorporate video camera technology that faculty could use to zoom in, record and stream courses. They needed 4K quality from end to end to achieve the desired results, determined Tom Aldridge, Presentation Technology Manager for Presentation Technology Support Services at the college.

They wanted the ability to move away from traditional codec systems and into new cloud-based collaboration spaces like Zoom and Skype for Business. Since the college is spread across six different campuses in one of the largest counties in the country, having systems that could be managed remotely would keep classes up and running without downtime or traveling to the sites.

SOLUTION

Yavapai College installed two RoboSHOT® 20 UHD cameras in each kitchen (one kitchen for savory and one for sweet foods), along with OneLINK HDMI Receivers and AV Bridges to send audio and video into computers for lecture capture.

A huge factor in Aldridge's decision to use these solutions was the ease of USB integration to work with Zoom for faculty in the classroom. A simple RJ-45 connection to their Crestron system made it easy to integrate control. With the OneLINK and AV Bridge, Aldridge said it's basically plug and play.

"We also have wireless microphones that the instructors clip on, launch the software on the computer that's in the room, and the AV Bridge takes all that stuff into the computer and they can use whatever application they want to record or to do distance learning," Aldridge said. "No codecs, a lot cheaper, a lot more scalable and we can connect to anybody in the world."

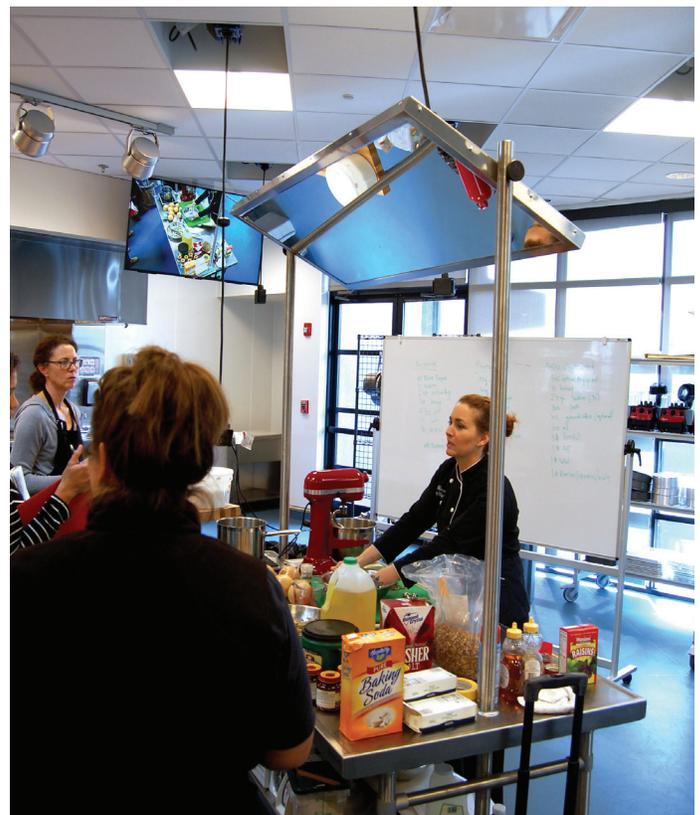
Since the system was almost all based on HDBaseT technology, they didn't have to worry about converting HDMI or HDSI. Aldridge could use 4K from end to end to take advantage of better resolution no matter how detailed the demonstration.

"I was looking for a true 4K type camera solution with that easy cabling. Everything from other vendors I could find was all either SDI based, maybe HDMI based. The Vaddio cameras with the OneLINKs and being able to bring all that stuff across Cat-5 cabling – easy, and that's why we stuck with it," said Aldridge.

And fixing issues can be done via IP from a central help desk to make sure the PTZ camera and audio are working. Staff can access the RTSP streams remotely to see what's going on real time in the room. They can pan, tilt, zoom, change white balance and more through the web interface, including programming it into the Crestron system for recalls on camera presets.

"The great part of it is just how easy it is to use, how simple it is to set up, install and integrate and then be done," Aldridge said.

The AV Bridges allow them to move from USB streaming to web streaming or RTSP streaming in order to work with various cloud-based applications. The AV Bridges have been Aldridge's "go to" tool for bringing the in-room technology into the computer.





RESULTS

When the RoboSHOT 20 UHD cameras and 4k displays were first up and running, contractors at the site thought Aldridge was showing still shots of other kitchens. That is, until someone walked through the frame and they realized it was a live shot.

“Everybody’s been impressed and amazed. It looks like nothing we’ve ever seen in this environment before,” Aldridge said.

Aldridge said setting up a simple, scaled-back system for the teachers was paramount to launching the classroom technology. According to Aldridge, teachers took to it quickly and were able to self-teach on many aspects of the system. Then came the “what else can I do?” moments that led to further training on specific lecture capture systems as well as shooting demonstrations or training modules that they can bring up later for students.

Pastry Chef Kat Biemann, said, “It just adds to what I am teaching, which is nice for students. If I need another example I can show it to them and they have a clear visual so I think it just adds into the instruction as a whole.”

Dr. Perey said he absolutely recommended a similar system for other programs.

“I think that technology is one of those tools that’s not only needed now, but it’s needed for the future,” Perey said. “As [students] get younger and younger, we know that they’re digital and technical natives, and it’s important that educational institutions, especially post-secondary, embrace those same concepts.”



Vaddio, founded in 2003, designs, develops and manufactures professional quality PTZ cameras, Pro AV solutions and a full suite of Unified Communication and Collaboration systems for the audiovisual, collaboration and production markets. Vaddio solutions combine enterprise-class performance with system-configured design and are easy to install and easy to use. Backed by industry-leading support, Vaddio products enhance any AV experience by elevating the science of communication with the Art of Easy.



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