



## **STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUEST FORM FISCAL YEAR 2026-27**

### **ALL BLANKS MUST BE FILLED COMPLETELY**

Prepared by: STAT for NSU Campuses

Department/Unit: STAT College: NSU Campus: NSU

Which **NSTEP Goals/Objectives** does this project meet? 1,2,5,6,8

Signature: Christopher P. Brumley Digitally signed by Christopher P. Brumley  
Date: 2026.09.14 10:55:08 -05'00' Date: 9/14/2026

Proposal Requested Amount: \$400,000.00 Budget Attached: YES ☐ NO ☒

**1. Describe target audience:**

All students enrolled through Northwestern State University. This equipment will be utilized across Northwestern State University campuses.

**2. Describe project/initiative for which you are requesting funds:**

To purchase network related equipment, including wired and wireless, to upgrade infrastructure across Northwestern State University campuses.

**3. State measurable objective that will be used to determine the impact/effectiveness of the project:**

To enhance student connectivity across Northwestern State University campuses.

**4. Indicate how each project objective will be evaluated:**

The effectiveness of the infrastructure upgrades will be evaluated by the usage of the equipment by the student body at the different locations.

**5. If funded, which **NSTEP objective(s)** will this funding of this project advance? How will funding of the project advance the University and College/unit technology plan?**

Objectives 1-9 will be enhanced.

**6. Provide a justification for funding of this project. Estimate the number of students that will be served per academic year and in what ways. Please indicate any unique needs of the target group:**

This project will directly affect numerous students. The infrastructure upgrades will enhance connectivity and usage throughout the campus community.

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7. List those individuals who will be responsible for the implementation of the project/initiative and indicate their demonstrated abilities to accomplish the objective of the project:

Chris Brumley, Director of Academic Technology Services, will serve as project manager.

8. Describe any personnel (technical or otherwise) required to support the project/initiative:

Academic Technology Services and Instructional Technology will provide all technical support necessary.

9. Provide a schedule for implementation and evaluation:

Funding (October), Purchase (October/November), Installation (Spring Semester)

10. Estimate the expected life of hardware and software. Explain any anticipated equipment/software upgrades during the next five (5) years:

The hardware should have a life span of 5 years.

11. Explain in detail a plan and policy that will be in place to ensure property security/controls for any equipment received through the Student Technology Fee. If you are requesting equipment that will either be checked out to students or moved within the department, you must provide a checkout/loan policy:

The department will follow policies and procedures in place by the university.

12. Below is a detailed budget:

| Department                            | Description                                                                                                                                | Cost Per Project | Total Cost   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Information Technology Services (ITS) | To upgrade aging infrastructure of the data center and network located on the Natchitoches campus and connectivity to all remote campuses. | \$400,000.00     | \$400,000.00 |
|                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                  |              |
|                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                  |              |
|                                       |                                                                                                                                            | Total            | \$400,000.00 |

Email completed request to Chris Brumley at [brumleyc@nsula.edu](mailto:brumleyc@nsula.edu)

# Memo

**To:** Student Technology Advisory Team

**From:** Rocky Perritt, Deputy Chief Information Officer

**CC** Chris Brumley, Ron Williams, Jorge Rodriguez, Blayne Henson

**Date:** 9/3/2026

**Re:** Infrastructure Updates

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**REQUEST AT A GLANCE:** Information Technology Services requests \$400,000 from the Student Technology Fee to support the next phase of network and data center infrastructure updates during fiscal year 2026-27.

## **Purpose and Background**

Information Technology Services (ITS) requests \$400,000 from the Student Technology Fee for the next phase of Northwestern State University's multi-year network and data center modernization initiatives. This work will continue improvements to the infrastructure supporting the Natchitoches campus data center, the Shreveport disaster recovery site, and the network services used by students across the University. This funding will be combined with other university funding sources to reduce the time taken to refresh critical technology infrastructure.

This is a multi-year effort by ITS to modernize the data center infrastructure, with an estimated total cost between \$1.5 million and \$2 million. Completed phases involved updating and replacing the compute platform and storage systems in the main Natchitoches data center. By leveraging leftover funds, combining purchases to increase purchasing power, and getting lucky with market timing, we also completed phase two: replacing the compute and storage components in the Shreveport disaster recovery data center and refreshing the backup systems on both campuses.

With this funding, we plan to proceed with phase three. This phase will focus on refreshing the internal network communications between data center equipment while also increasing the university's primary internet connection to 100Gb. Also in this phase, we plan to replace and repair the power delivery, backup power, and HVAC systems in both the primary and disaster-recovery data centers. Remaining funds will then be used to refresh aging network equipment in campus buildings to improve capacity, reliability, and service continuity. Prioritizing older and less reliable hardware first.

## **Benefits to Students**

Students depend on the University's network and data center services to access instructional systems, online resources, campus connectivity, authentication, and other technology-enabled services. Continued investment in this shared infrastructure will help ITS provide a more reliable and resilient foundation for learning, student support, and campus operations.

## **Budget and Procurement**

This request establishes project-level funding for the planned infrastructure priorities described above. Because final equipment selections, quantities, implementation sequencing, and procurement methods will be determined as technical planning progresses, individual quotes and a detailed line-item budget are not included at this stage. Student Technology Fee funding will be combined with other available University funding to address as broad a scope of work as possible, meet related infrastructure needs, and maximize the overall impact of the investment. All approved Student Technology Fee funds will be used for eligible infrastructure costs that support the student technology environment and will be expended in accordance with applicable University and state procurement requirements.

## **Requested Action**

ITS respectfully requests that the Student Technology Advisory Team approve \$400,000 in Student Technology Fee funding for the fiscal year 2026-27 phase of the network and data center infrastructure modernization initiative.

*Thank you for your consideration and continued support for the technology infrastructure that serves Northwestern State University students.*