



# Easy collaboration capabilities improve student learning

Maryville College offers students engaging classroom experiences, with enhanced collaboration via quick, hassle-free connectivity to displays and projectors for all types of devices



Higher Education

United States

## University needs

For years, students and instructors alike suffered the hassle of connecting their devices to classroom displays and projectors with cables and adapters, accepting the disruption and effort as “normal.” For its part, IT staff responded to calls for help while being wary of costly, typically complicated solutions. An alternative approach was needed.

## Solutions at a glance

- [Dell OptiPlex 7050 Micro PC with Intel® Core™ vPro™ processor family and Intel Unite®](#)

## University results

- Improves instructional efficiency and effectiveness
- Encourages content sharing and collaboration
- Installs and operates easily, saving IT time and support calls
- Improves college’s competitive standing

### Simplifies

linking devices in classrooms, saving time and effort



### Enhances

the classroom experience, increasing instructor and student engagement



Founded in 1819, Tennessee's Maryville College takes pride in providing an intimate, high-quality education for its 1,200 students. Class size averages 21 students and nearly all of its 77 full-time professors have doctorates or terminal degrees.

The five-person IT staff considers itself an extension of the faculty, and aims to enhance the student experience and boost learning outcomes. "If students, faculty or staff have issues, we drop what we're doing to help them, even if we're working on a top IT priority," says IT Director John Berry. "The learning experience is core to what we do."

To improve that learning experience, Berry wanted to fix the hassles of connecting laptops and tablets to classroom displays and projectors with cables and adapters. "Cables tether professors," he says. "If students or guests want to share what's on their devices, it disrupts class, often prompting a call to IT for help."

## Serendipity strikes

Berry investigated some solutions, but found them expensive and proprietary. However, while visiting the Dell EMC Executive Briefing Center in Austin, he saw a projector displaying a splash screen with "Intel Unite" and a six-digit code across it. "A quick demo showed me how incredibly simple the Intel Unite on the Dell OptiPlex Micro PC solution is—and how it could solve our classroom connectivity issues."

Soon after, Berry deployed five units of the Intel Unite® system running on the book-size Dell OptiPlex 7050 Micro PC, which features the latest Intel® Core™ vPro™ processor family, Windows 10, 8GB of RAM and 128GB of SSD storage. All have ProSupport and are centrally managed via Microsoft Group Policy and Intel Active Management Technology over the campus network.

Intel Unite supports laptops with Windows or macOS as well as Android or iOS devices. At Maryville College, it offers users secure, near-instant wireless connections to room displays and projectors. Students, faculty or guests simply download a small client app, and then connect by entering a six-digit code projected or displayed from

the Dell OptiPlex 7050 Micro PC. A central server in the campus data center generates that code, which is location-dependent and changes every five minutes for security.

## Facilitating sharing and collaboration

Intel Unite enables different users to share content at the same time, so they can compare files or merge content. They can also mark up shared content and send files up to any or all class participants by dragging one to a file-transfer icon that prompts recipients to download it.

According to Berry, installation was easy. "We quickly configured the solution on a centralized server. We simply plugged each Dell OptiPlex Micro PC with Intel Unite into our network, hooked them up to the projector and television, and it just worked, displaying the six-digit number users need to connect. Training users is just as easy, with related support calls nearly eliminated. We don't have to hold anyone's hand anymore."

Campus reaction has been very positive. "Instructors can now walk around their classrooms and engage students more, thanks to the Dell OptiPlex Micro PC and Intel Unite solution," Berry says. "They can be more efficient

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IT Director, Maryville College





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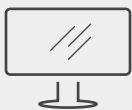
and productive, and the solution also facilitates students sharing content and collaborating more, both greatly enhancing the classroom experience.”

The college recently deployed Dell Latitude 7480 and 5289 laptops with Intel® Core™ vPro™ processor family technology. These enable faculty members to present content directly to student devices using the Intel Unite solution when displays or projectors are not available, such as outdoor field studies.

## Unleashing classroom creativity

In the coming year, Berry expects to add more Dell OptiPlex 7050 Micro PC units with Intel Unite across campus. He believes they can help polish the school's already sterling reputation for delivering an intimate educational experience, making it even more attractive to faculty and student candidates alike. And he adds, “We have numerous faculty members who are very creative and enthusiastic about new technology, so we're really looking forward to how the Dell OptiPlex Micro PC with Intel Unite solution will unleash new teaching approaches in their classrooms.”

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