

**A HIGH TECH CAMPUS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
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The technology design for Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo reflects its unique educational philosophy encouraging human interaction by integrating technology into both the natural and building environments.

SUA is providing each student with his/her own laptop computer as part of the tuition. Data ports provide high-speed network access and are available in every dorm room and throughout the campus. Miles of fiber optic cable provide more than 3,800 information outlets throughout the campus.

“By giving each student a computer, we are creating a ‘baseline,’ so that students are equal in terms of their equipment,” said Scott Cowdrey, director of Information Technology for SUA, AV. “We’ve even located ports in outdoor spaces throughout the campus, so students can sit down virtually anywhere, plug in and get to work.

“As a small liberal arts college, our focus is on interpersonal communication and instruction. Many people wonder why we’ve gone to such lengths to incorporate this highly sophisticated technology on our campus,” Cowdrey continued. “The answer is that we want to enable our professors to leverage the incredible functionality which technology brings while maintaining a close, hands-on classroom environment.”

Cowdrey explained that SUA, AV professors have a software application to create a Web site for each course. Instructors are able to post materials and course outlines, and attach images, documents, or digital videos to the course’s Web site, freeing them from printing and distributing bulky handouts or spending class time covering material students can view independently.

“By giving our professors the ability to disseminate class materials via their Web sites, we are helping them maximize their small class environment. We’re giving them more time to interact with their students through group discussions,” Cowdrey said.

The 21st century has definitely arrived at SUA, AV where classrooms feature a sophisticated wireless network-based touch-screen, touch-panel control system. This system activates the projectors, screens, VCRs, DVDs, lights, curtains and just about everything in the room. In addition, the campus features a 150-seat multi-media lecture hall, two distance-learning classrooms, six multi-media classrooms and three interactive classrooms.

SUA, AV has also enhanced the cable TV connections in the student’s dormitory rooms. In addition to traditional video ports, SUA has added a satellite connection so that international students and students studying foreign languages will be able to receive channels offering programs in many languages.

SUA, AV is also one of the first entirely “keyless” campuses in the nation. Students will access their residence halls and dorm rooms with a special card—which will also allow them to do their laundry, buy lunch, check out books at the library and use the vending machines.

“Our students and faculty have technology available at their fingertips. Technology empowers us with speed and information, but it is only a supplement to an effective and stimulating learning environment,” Cowdrey said. “And we certainly have that at SUA.”