

EQUIPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION

Name of Person Submitting Request:	Vanessa Engstrom
Program or Service Area:	Geography and GIS
Division:	Science
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	Fall 2011
What rating was given?	continuation
Equipment Requested	Framed raised relief map
Amount Requested:	\$600
Strategic Initiatives Addressed:	Student Success

Replacement

Growth

1. Provide a rationale for your request.

Geographers study the spatial distribution of phenomena, regularly using maps to illustrate the distribution of climates, topographic barriers, and various weather related concepts. The maps in our classroom are decades old and are starting to show their age. The plastic raised relief maps are materially cracking at the corners and/or bending, making it difficult to prop up the maps. In addition, the maps are anachronistic relics from another age. It is difficult to convey the modern world when our wall maps indicate political names and borders that no longer exist (e.g. Soviet Union, Belgian Congo, and Rhodesia). While of historic value, our aging maps cannot properly prepare students for a globalized, 21st-century world.

One of the challenges presented by the layout of our new classroom is the lack of wall space. As a result, we have had to prop up our raised relief maps against the wall or on a stand instead of affixing them to a dedicated wall. While this provides flexibility in terms of displaying the maps, ultimately the maps can crack with the constant repositioning. In addition, framed and fixed-mount wall maps are much safer than the current arrangement of non-framed, non-fixed maps. Currently, our maps could fall in the event of an earthquake. Framed, fixed-mount maps would eliminate this hazard.

2. Indicate how the content of the latest Program Efficacy Report and current EMP data support this request How is the request tied to program planning? (*Reference the page number(s) where the information can be found on Program Efficacy.*)

A goal for the Geography department as stated in our current EMP data is to, “maintain laboratories with equipment and supplies needed for quality education.” Maps are critical to the study of geography and raised relief maps provide additional elevation data which is critical for students’ understanding of weather, climate and landform development.” Page 22 of our current Program Efficacy document lists as a challenge, “At present, there is too little ongoing instructional supply money for necessary classroom items, including up-to-date maps, globes, demonstration models, and laboratory supplies.” It is difficult to discuss current geopolitical issues on maps that fail to identify current world countries.

3. Indicate if there is additional information you wish the committee to consider (*for example: regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, or planning, etc.*).

Geographers study where things are located. It is difficult to address the where question without current maps. It is also difficult to get students to consider why things are located where they are located without current maps. Fixed and mounted, modern wall maps have the potential to increase student persistence, success, retention, and access. As with current maps, they can be further integrated into lecture and laboratory curriculum. They are also especially amenable to distributed education (DE) delivery. For example, an instructor could be videotaped in front of a wall map as a part of a lecture. This video – featuring one or more wall maps – could easily be streamed online. This further increases student access.

4. Evaluation of initial cost, as well as related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and identification of any alternative or ongoing funding sources. (for example Department Budget or Perkins)

The program has a small amount of funding for instructional supplies but no other sources of funding. Therefore, purchase of only one fixed and mounted, modern wall map could consume the entire annual budget. By virtue of their simplicity, maps require minimal maintenance. The only maintenance would include replacing maps when place names and boundaries change in a significant manner.

5. What are the consequences of not funding this equipment?

Students will remain ignorant as to where things are located in our world. Visual learners will have difficulty understanding how concepts are tied directly to location. Fixed, mounted, modern wall maps are friendly for use within distributed education (DE) courses. Without updated maps, traditional and DE students will be deprived of this rich resource. Regardless of area of emphasis and purpose, college students must understand the globalized, 21st-century world in order to remain competitive for transfer and job market. Furthermore, the non-mounted, non-fixed maps pose a hazard to faculty, students, and staff. In the event of an (inevitable) earthquake, these maps will tumble to the ground, potentially injuring students. Fixed, wall-mounted maps largely eliminate this safety hazard.