

Letter of Support for VILO Project

Andaz Ahmad; Instructional Designer, Ivy Tech Northeast

January 30, 2008

Andaz;

I can't thank you enough for helping the VILO project enough. Several years ago, I had the idea that I would like to videotape lab procedures and skills for assessment in the Medical Assisting clinical lab. At the time, funds, time, and technology were lacking. Where to house the video clips and where to make the video clips accessible to students were also stumbling blocks. I was able to track down a handful of online Learning Objects that covered some of skills, but not in the method or format that was applicable to our student's needs.

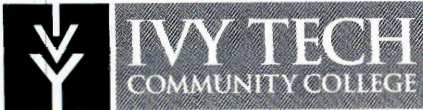
Brainstorming with you, the iPod video capability became an obvious choice. Not only iPods, but CD, DVD Cable-Access TV, and streaming video became instant choices as well. We are now able to meet every student's learning need 24/7, and in the video format of their choice!!! And having the VILOs available in SecondLife on Health InfoIsland, next to the CDC Island ... WOW!

Cost savings for repeated practice lab materials is significant. To date, we have saved about 30% of our lab expenses and I anticipate that to increase as we approach the year end. We are piloting a lab section this semester with a shorter time session as the student-instructor contact dynamic is changing.

The immediate academic benefits are best stated by the students and their instructors. The testimonials on the [ivyvilos.com](http://ivyvilos.com) website speak for themselves. From an administrator's viewpoint, I note the following:

- Technique standardization in all sections of courses
  - Students come to class better prepared to practice the skill
- Damage to the lab equipment caused by students' unfamiliarity has dwindled  
Students can "virtually" review lab skills, saving money on lab supplies  
VILOs teach "ahead of the book" with equipment that is unique to the medical lab

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Student satisfaction has increased and Remediation Plans have been eliminated

In the coming months, I hope to be a part of launching the more options in the **SecondLife** forum, VILO and other options alike. I believe we are at a turning point in the road with respect to technology adaptations to education, and more importantly, our students. Students become employees, and technology is so infused throughout the work-place that it must be infused into the classroom. Our graduates are becoming part of the shift toward daily multi-device technology applications. I **am** proud to say we are providing them a broad base to begin their careers, using both technology and video-interactive training.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tova Wiegand-Green BS CMA'.

Tova Wiegand-Green BS CMA (AAMA)

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