



Product

Planar TVF Series

Location

Missoula, Montana

Industry

Higher Education

Application

Presentation System

Student Experience

Visitor Engagement

Partner

Silver Stream Audio Visual,
a division of Alter Enterprise

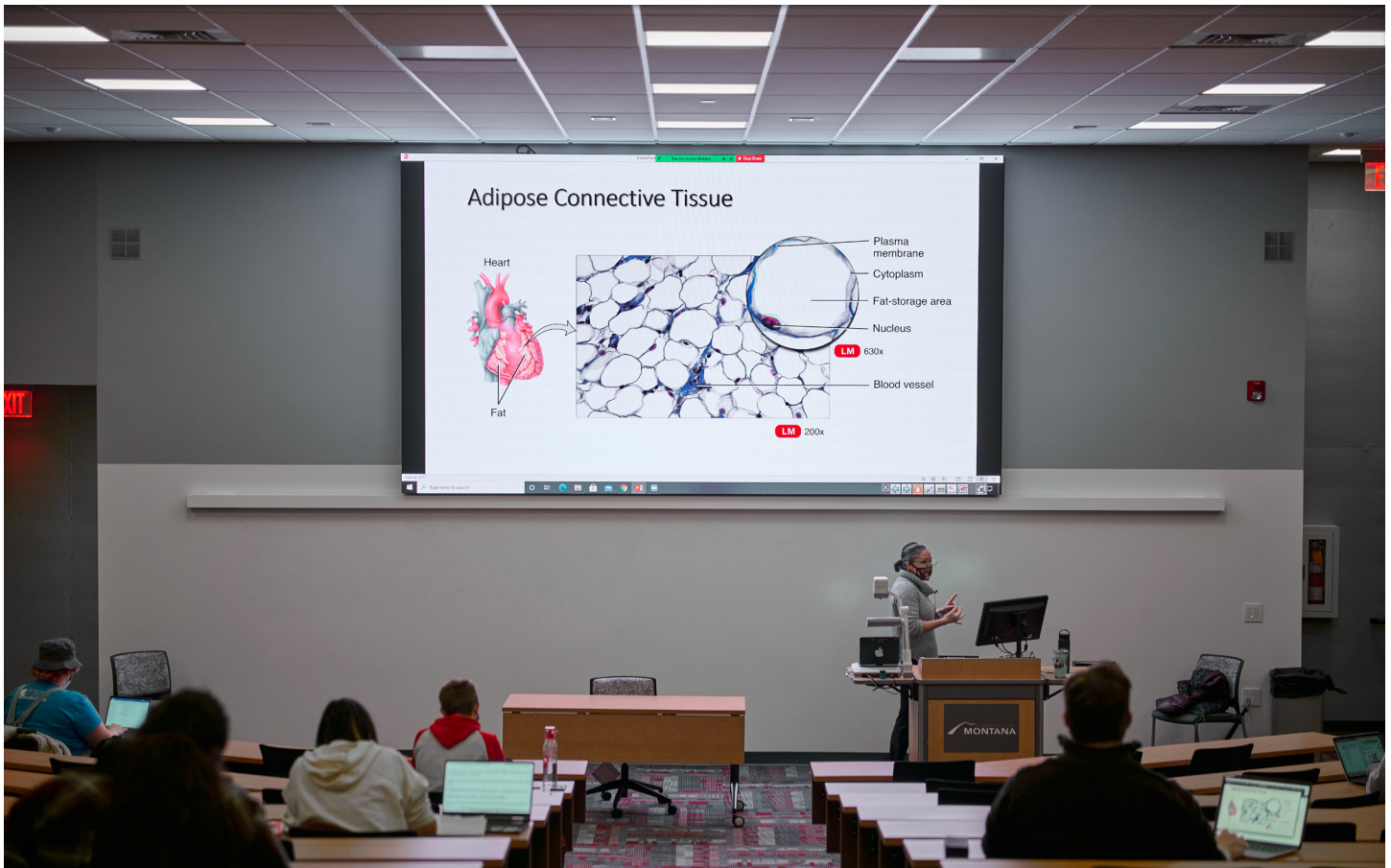
Planar LED Video Walls Featured in University of Montana's Renovated Underground Lecture Halls

University of Montana

Established in 1893 and located in Missoula, the University of Montana (UM) is a public research university and a flagship institution of the Montana University System. On the main campus, the school's facilities include two large underground venues that provide spaces for instruction and presentations. These include the 400-seat Urey Lecture Hall (UM's largest lecture hall) and, located across a shared foyer, North Underground Lecture Hall, with seating for 251.

Both halls had been virtually unchanged since their construction and were in need of technology updates to raise them to levels fitting with today's expectations for higher education. Using proceeds from bond funds ear-marked for investments in student-serving infrastructure, both venues were completely overhauled with modernizations that included new lighting, seating, flooring and acoustical improvements.

Highlighting the renovations is cutting-edge LED display technology featuring Planar® TVF Series fine pitch LED video walls. Integrated by Missoula-based Silver Stream Audio Visual, a division of Alter Enterprise, the installations include a nearly 18-foot-wide, 10-foot-high video wall in a 9x9 configuration in Urey Lecture Hall and a nearly 14-foot-wide, 8-foot-high video wall in a 7x7 configuration in North Underground Lecture Hall. Both feature a 1.8mm pixel pitch (TVF1.8).



Advancing campus technology

At the start of this project, University of Montana Chief Information Officer Zach Rossmiller tasked Director of Infrastructure Scott Holgate and a team of classroom technology experts with finding visual technology solutions for these often-used spaces. Knowing the rooms were used for new student orientations and recruiting events as well as instruction, the team wanted to ensure the technology would provide a degree of ‘wow factor’ along with function. After reviewing different technologies, they settled on seamless LED video walls from Planar.

Compared with the projection equipment that previously served the rooms, the Planar TVF Series LED video walls provide abundant and clear visibility from all vantage points in the lecture halls, according to Holgate. “You can easily view them from any angle and the video walls are bright throughout,” he said. “It’s a tremendous improvement over what we had before. And being a seamless technology, the video walls do not have any lines that might interfere with a spreadsheet or other presentation materials.”

After installing the video walls, Silver Stream Audio Visual came back on another service contract to help set up control equipment and cameras, which, combined with the Planar TVF Series LED video walls, allows the university to embrace a more hybrid type of learning environment, said Desireh Kissinger, senior AV support consultant with Silver Stream Audio Visual.

“It’s clear that a lot of great care has been taken into the design and engineering—the displays are simple to use and maintain.”

*— Scott Holgate, Director of Infrastructure,
University of Montana*



“They can now better cater to remote participants and students who can make it to class,” Kissinger said. “The technology upgrades were critical for bringing those rooms into the 21st century. The video walls look impressive in the spaces, and they provide more flexible options for the university and the students.”

In addition to presentations, recruiting, class lectures and other academic activities, the university is planning to use the halls and the new LED video walls to host different kinds of events.

“We want to have movie nights, sports watching parties and similar uses that we haven’t yet had an opportunity to explore,” Holgate said. “Our events people also have the ability to lease the spaces to outside organizations, which could provide a revenue source to help us maintain the equipment.”

In every way, Holgate said the university is very impressed with the Planar video walls. “The durability of the product is fantastic. It’s clear that a lot of great care has been taken into the design and engineering—the displays are simple to use and maintain. From a facility standpoint, when we have 250 classrooms to take care of, not adding complexity and something that’s hard to manage is a huge advantage.”

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About the Planar TVF Series

The Planar TVF Series is a family of fine pitch LED video wall displays with a 16:9 aspect ratio that allows every pixel pitch to exactly achieve popular resolutions including Full HD and 4K. Featuring front serviceability and a creative stackable design, Planar TVF Series video walls are assembled like building blocks, eliminating cabinet-to-cabinet cabling and reducing the complexity of installation and vertical alignment. With a profile of less than three inches, the Planar TVF Series reduces the overall footprint and servicing space that is required. This makes the video walls easier to fit in more spaces compared to other LED video wall solutions.