

RPI EventHub Kiosk Project Proposal

Outline

Introduction

RPI EventHub started as a simple idea to create one place where students can find all campus events. Since launching as an RCOS project in January 2024, we've grown into the go-to platform for the RPI community to discover what's happening on campus. Our site makes it easy to find events through filters, get details, and set reminders all in one place.

Students use EventHub to find everything from club meetings to workshops, while organizations benefit from increased visibility without plastering flyers across campus. With over 1,800 events hosted and collaborations with the Vice President's office, Study Compass, Edureka, Capy, and Concerto, we've built a platform that serves real campus needs.

Now we're ready to bring EventHub into the physical world with an interactive kiosk in the Student Union. Students passing through or waiting for shuttles will experience a unique interface with larger touch targets, simplified navigation, and visually engaging event cards that make discovering campus activities effortless while on the go. By adding this kiosk, we're making campus events even more accessible and helping build a more connected RPI community.

The Problem in Depth

Despite the many engaging events happening at RPI, students regularly miss opportunities they would have enjoyed. This disconnect happens because the current ways of sharing event information have significant limitations.

The event promotion landscape at RPI requires organizations to use multiple communication channels simultaneously: physical flyers, email lists, social media platforms, and word of mouth. Each of these methods comes with its own challenges.

Campus bulletin boards and buildings quickly become cluttered with flyers. When dozens compete for attention, individual events struggle to stand out. Flyers can't update when details change and force club members to spend time posting them across campus. During winter months, trudging through snow makes this task even more burdensome.

Email announcements disappear in busy inboxes. Students receive too many campus-related emails to review each one thoroughly. Emails also only reach students who already signed up for lists, missing potential new attendees.

Social media works inconsistently across campus. Many clubs don't maintain Instagram accounts, while others only use Discord servers that students haven't joined. Even when clubs post regularly, with over 200 active student organizations at RPI, students can't follow every potential event source. Posts get buried in feeds or students miss them completely.

Word of mouth remains surprisingly important but fails to reach everyone. Many students only hear about interesting events after they've already happened through conversations with friends.

These problems hit new students hardest. First-year and transfer students miss opportunities during their first semesters when they most want to get involved.

For student organizations, this fragmented system creates unnecessary work. Club leaders spend hours on promotion instead of improving their events. Smaller clubs with fewer members struggle even more to attract attention.

The result is a persistent gap between available opportunities and student participation. Events with capacity for 30-50 attendees might see only 8-10 participants despite extensive promotion efforts. This not only disappoints organizers but weakens our campus community by reducing meaningful interactions between students.

Executive Summary

Our initial plan is to install an interactive kiosk on campus, making it simple and convenient for students to stay informed about campus events. This kiosk will allow students to easily discover events as they move around campus. Clubs and organizations will gain greater exposure and attendance for their events without additional promotional effort. This initiative aims to create a more vibrant, connected, and inclusive campus atmosphere, enhancing the overall student experience at RPI.

We are requesting initial funding of \$1,000 to purchase and install one kiosk. This pilot will be strategically placed in a high-traffic area to ensure maximum visibility and accessibility. We will evaluate its effectiveness by tracking event attendance, kiosk usage data, and feedback from students and organizations. Based on the pilot's success, we plan to expand with additional kiosks in the future.

Mission & Vision

Our mission with the EventHub kiosk is to create a central, physical access point for campus events that makes discovering opportunities effortless for all RPI students.

The kiosk will serve as a visible, always-on presence in the Student Union, providing real-time information about upcoming events without requiring students to check websites, emails, or social media. This removes barriers between students and events, especially for those who haven't established connections to specific campus organizations.

We've chosen the Student Union for our first kiosk because it's where most students naturally spend time between classes, during meals, while waiting for shuttles, or while socializing. It's the perfect location to reach the maximum number of students with minimal effort. For now, our plan focuses on this single strategic kiosk to prove the concept. If it succeeds as we expect, we can expand to additional campus locations in the future.

We envision a more connected campus where students can discover events that match their interests at a glance while passing through common areas. Clubs and organizations can focus their energy on creating quality events rather than extensive promotion. Newcomers to campus will feel immediately plugged into campus life, and spontaneous participation in events will increase, creating a more vibrant community. The Union will become an even more central hub for student engagement.

Value Proposition

For students, an EventHub kiosk placed in the Union makes discovering campus events more convenient and accessible. Whether students are on their way to grab lunch, hanging out in the game room, or waiting for shuttles, they can easily find upcoming events with a few taps. The kiosk helps students avoid hunting down events through scattered flyers or sifting through endless emails. It provides a centralized network of events that increases awareness and makes it easy for students to find activities matching their interests. The interactive nature of the kiosk might even inspire students to host events of their own when they see how active the campus community can be.

For clubs/student organizations, the EventHub kiosk offers greater exposure with less effort. Organizations can promote their events to students who don't follow their social media or subscribe to their email lists. This saves them from taping flyers across campus and competing for attention among hundreds of other announcements. The kiosk also offers better attendance tracking and data on how many people viewed their events, helping with planning and resource allocation. When event details change, updates instantly reflect on the kiosk, ensuring students stay informed without requiring additional promotional work from club members.

For RPI, the EventHub kiosk helps connect students, faculty, and organizations in a more integrated manner, strengthening the vibrant and inclusive community. During campus tours, prospective students and their families can see the rich variety of events happening on campus, showcasing RPI's dynamic student life. This visual demonstration of campus engagement can

become a valuable recruiting tool, giving visitors a glimpse of the experiences awaiting them at RPI.

For the Union, the EventHub kiosk streamlines event management and reduces administrative burden. Staff will spend less time approving and stamping physical posters, since more events will be promoted digitally. The centralized event database makes it easier to track all campus activities and plan the Union calendar without overlaps or conflicts. This improved oversight allows the Union to send out more accurate weekly event calendars and better allocate spaces based on anticipated attendance. The kiosk also reinforces the Union's position as the central hub for student life, encouraging more frequent visits and strengthening its connection to campus activities.

How we'll measure success:

- Track increases in event attendance through QR code check-ins during events.
- Monitor event discovery views to see how many students tapped into event pages.
- Measure growth in user sign-ups for event updates from the EventHub kiosk.
- Collect feedback from clubs about attendance trends after kiosk implementation.
- Survey student satisfaction with event discovery before and after kiosk installation.

Competitive Advantage

While traditional promotion methods each serve a purpose, the EventHub kiosk offers significant advantages that address their limitations.

Our biggest strength is having all campus events in one place. Unlike fragmented flyers or social media, our kiosk accesses a comprehensive database with events from every organization, creating a single source of truth for campus activities.

The kiosk displays real-time information, ensuring students see the most current details including any last-minute changes. Clear tag categorization and filtering tools make finding relevant events quick and intuitive.

The engaging interface encourages browsing, helping students discover events they wouldn't otherwise find. Our clean, appealing user interface makes the experience enjoyable, encouraging repeat usage and exploration. QR codes enable instant registration, while the export function lets students easily add events to their personal calendars. A "like" feature shows event popularity, providing social proof that can drive attendance.

Verified users can easily create their own events to be displayed on the kiosk, with far fewer steps than traditional event registration processes. This streamlined approach encourages more students to organize and host events, further enriching campus life.

The system requires minimal maintenance since events can be uploaded by verified users themselves. The EventHub RCOS team provides ongoing support and updates to ensure everything runs smoothly.

By placing the kiosk in the Union, we create a reliable, physical touchpoint for event discovery that students can count on. This democratizes event promotion, giving equal visibility to all campus organizations regardless of their size or resources.

Technical Scope

- Basic hardware requirements and placement strategy
- Integration with existing EventHub platform
- User interaction highlights

Implementation Plan

- When we want to roll this out
- Installation process and locations
- Who will maintain the kiosks
- How the project continues after team members graduate

Partnerships & Collaborations

- Who we're working with at the Union
- Our status as an RCOS project
- Faculty support from Prof. Turner
- Our existing collaborations with the VP and Chief Strategy Officer for Institutional Impact
- Integration with other open source projects: Study Compass, Edureka, Capy
- Challenges we've faced with integrations so far
- Additional connections we need to establish for greater impact

Budget Breakdown

- Kiosk hardware costs
- Any additional software development costs
- Installation and setup expenses
- Ongoing maintenance budget
- Buffer for unexpected costs

Milestones & Deliverables

- Our step-by-step plan from design to deployment
- Testing phases and quality assurance
- Rollout strategy and timeline
- How we'll gather and implement user feedback

Future Growth Potential

- Adding more kiosks if these are successful
- New features we could add later
- Long-term sustainability plan

Team & Qualifications

- Who we are and why we can pull this off
- Our relevant experience and skills
- Faculty backing and support
- Since the first semester, eventhub have maintained an average number of teammate of about 8 or 9 student per semester. with the current being 10, we have enough manpower, and if this kiosk project extends to future semester, we will have enough manpower
- Consist of diverse skill sets people capable of learning fast, very technical, great ui designer, etc
- Have the backing of faculty like prof. Turner
-