

Creative Arts & Innovation/Technology

WCU & iFixit: Combining Learning with Purpose to Reduce e-Waste

Associate Professor, Dr. Andrew Virtue (advirtue@email.wcu.edu), collaborated students in Technical Writing work with iFixit (www.ifixit.com), a wiki-based website that provides free repair guides for various technological devices in an attempt to reduce e-waste by 50% and battle planned obsolescence of modern technology. By the end of each semester, students have composed 20-30 repair guides for 4-5 devices that are provided by iFixit. Additionally, students continually communicate and receive constructive feedback from iFixit on their work. The project culminates with the students' work being published on iFixit's website for open-sourced use across the world.

Assistant Professor Virtue explained about this semester long collaborative experience, “the value of community engagement work becomes clear in the classroom. Students not only learn course material but begin to see how it connects to the world around them – and that they are agents of progress and change.”

For more information see: [Nikon Coolpix AW130 Motherboard Replacement](#)

[Fixit: The Free Repair Manual: www.ifixit.com](#) - iFixit is a global community of people helping each other repair things. Let's fix the world, one device at a time.

If you would like your community engagement work recognized through the *STAR Engagement Projects* program, please submit your proposals through the [Community-based Activities Faculty Survey](#) administered annually in the spring semester from early April – late May.

