

# Duke University Brings Experts to the Classroom Through a Virtual Lecture Hall

Students enrolled in Duke University's Fuqua School of Business in Durham, North Carolina, now learn from professors, business leaders, and other guest lecturers from around the globe. And they're not simply reading articles or watching prerecorded videos, but meeting these experts face to face.

When a guest is scheduled to meet with students, the students gather in the university's new "virtual lecture hall," powered by a Cisco® TelePresence™ system. Students from other universities can join in the live interaction from up to three other Cisco TelePresence rooms anywhere in the world. The guests appear larger than life on 103-inch plasma displays at the front of the classroom. The combination of high-definition video and high-quality audio provide an immersive experience, revealing body language and vocal nuances as if the speakers were physically present.

The instructor's podium in the virtual lecture hall provides two document cameras to share class materials on the Cisco TelePresence displays, three remote student displays for the instructor to view remote classrooms from the podium, and 66 custom push-to-talk microphones that enable students in the lecture hall to interact with the remote guest speakers. Pressure sensors on the floor allow the camera to follow the in-person lecturer as he or she moves around the front of the lecture hall.

## A Master Class with Global Participants

The dean of Duke University Fuqua School of Business, Blair Sheppard, inaugurated the new lecture hall by leading a CEO Master Class on February 5, 2010. Participants in the interactive Cisco TelePresence session included:

- Several MBA students in a Cisco TelePresence room in India
- Cisco Chairman and CEO John Chambers, joining from San Jose, California
- John Doerr, a Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers partner, also joining from San Jose
- A Duke University professor joining from another Cisco TelePresence room in India

Dean Sheppard says, "We are now realizing the future classroom that can support education with the global foundation that students need today and in the future. This [Cisco] TelePresence lecture hall will facilitate an immersion into the classroom experience from points around the country and around the world for embedded and connected learning and collaboration."

To watch a video of the beginning of the first Cisco TelePresence session in Duke's new virtual lecture hall, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=34ZBIDVoCYE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34ZBIDVoCYE).



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