



## Application in Education

### Pomona College Native American Study Center Claremont, CA, USA

<http://www.pomona.edu/museum/collections/native-american.aspx>

"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." – Edmund Burke.

Understanding one's history and culture is important to understanding one's self. Knowing where we came from and learning from what happened in the past shapes how we will act in the future. Whether it is the story of the forming of a far-away nation or the cultural history of a certain people, it gives us a greater perspective on who we are today. While it is important that we value this knowledge, it is equally important that we also preserve it for future generations. Pomona College is one institution that is doing just that.

An oasis of green in the desert sands of southern California, USA, Pomona College is a premier liberal arts institution offering a comprehensive program in the arts, humanities, and social and natural sciences. The college is also the home for The Pomona College Native American Collection, an academic repository of approximately 5,000 artifacts of ceramics, basketry, clothing, beadwork, and



The Pomona College Native American Study Center. A WolfVision EYE-12 Camera displays a beadwork pattern on a clothing artifact from the collection.



A clay pot artifact from the Salado region (present day Texas). Circa 1300-1350. Pomona College Collection.

archaeological objects from the southwest and northeast tribal areas. Pomona's Native American Study Center "allows intimate access to these objects while also upholding modern professional standards of care, handling, and storage," says Steve Comba, Assistant Director and Registrar of the Pomona College Museum of Art. To help in this endeavor, the Center uses a WolfVision EYE-12 Live Image Camera.

Installed on the ceiling above a large rolling table, the EYE-12 allows professors, students, and visitors to the collection to view and interact with these objects with minimal handling on the artifacts themselves. Joseph Brennan, Director of Media and Classroom Services at Pomona, states, "The camera really captures the fine detail of the beadwork and basket weave patterns that are in the collection."

The Study Center project required a solution that would not only display the intricate patterns on the artifacts, but also that it be user-friendly and out of the way. Regarding the selection process, Joseph had this to say, "The Eye-12 met our needs perfectly. It was small, and gave us the focal range to capture the final detail we were looking for. The price point for this kind of camera was very reasonable too and it's packed with all of the great features that all WolfVision products have."

A long-time customer, Pomona College has been using WolfVision for years. "We had a great track record of using WolfVision products. Our first Visualizer on campus, the VZ-8, really set the standard in 2003 and we have been big fans of the reliability, user interface, customer service, and excellent image reproduction," says Joseph.



*A woven basket artifact from the Northwest Coastal region, circa 1920. Pomona College Collection. Gift of Mr. Jonathan Tibbet.*



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Reaction from visitors and researchers at the Center has been universally positive. Joseph added, "The faculty, staff and researchers who use the facility are blown away by the image quality. Having the EYE-12 has helped us overcome the issues associated with viewing large objects with a standard Desktop Visualizer."

To learn more on how WolfVision has been helping museums and preservation projects, visit our website at:

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