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The FCC mission may be compromised by an impending decision. The FCC states that it is committed to insure that every educational institution has access to the information age. Proposed RM-9911 to designate 2500-2690 MHz frequency bands for Mobile-Satellite Service puts many educational institutions in jeopardy of losing ground to commercial wireless companies during this critical time of new technology development.

Our university is one of many who use this spectrum for ITFS operations.

San Diego State University, a campus of 30,000 students, is the licensee of four Instructional Television Fixed Service stations in San Diego. Our ITFS stations provide over 65 hours of instructional programming to approximately 10,445 students each week. Our continued ability to provide this important service is threatened by the FCC proposal to reallocate ITFS frequencies for the purpose of third generation (3G) wireless communications.

If this proposal is accepted, SDSU may have to cease operation of its ITFS stations and end service to these 10,445 students or bear the cost to find new spectrum and rebuild the system. This would require new equipment costs and result in lower quality of service. Currently, ITFS programming sent over SDSU channels is characterized by:

- Serving primarily hispanic students
- Serving underserved communities
- Curriculum area principally in science and math education  
(precisely the educational areas needing special focus  
in the information age, not to mention the subjects  
most needed by the wireless technology workforce.)

Further, the university would be incapable of supporting advanced wireless services and promoting the development of broadband services to the educational community and to underserved communities. SDSU currently has a close relationship to improve the quality of life in City Heights, a densely populated, inner-city neighborhood near the campus. This intensive \$18 million public-private partnership, supported by a grant from Price Charities and nearly every department and college in the University, is focused on raising the educational achievement in one of the state's most ethnically diverse and economically challenged communities and in improving college teacher preparation and retention. These are active, ongoing programs. Furthermore, the University has plans to offer broadband services to the K-12 schools in this community, as well as to a new High-Tech Computer Lab, which serves the whole community in developing workforce skills training. In addition, the University is about to launch a new television channel (SDSU-TV), which would utilize ITFS channels, as well as cable and the Internet, to provide instructional programming, lifelong learning courses and educational outreach to the community at large and to selected underserved K-12 schools, community centers and public agencies.

Much of this University's effort to bridge the digital divide and usher its students and many K-12 students and teachers in the community is threatened by the recent FCC proposal.