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Wilson Technical Community College

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February 16, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write to express my opposition to movement by 3-G to take the bandwidth currently set aside for the Instructional Television Fixed Service spectrum for which we have a license. Over the past five years, Wilson Technical Community College, along with our sister institutions in the North Carolina Community College System, have spent much time working on this project to bring the ITFS usage into reality. During that time, there have been dramatic changes such as two-way rather than one-way communications and the option of high speed Internet access. These changes have required us to change our start-up plans and have lengthened the process.

We now feel we are reaching the end of the planning process and are about to see this project come to fruition – if we can keep the current bandwidth that is allocated for ITFS usage. Our current distance education offerings would be enhanced with the availability of the ITFS channels. In addition to our immediate usage, there are unlimited future possibilities in areas such as professional development for faculty and staff; local business and industry meetings and serving as an outlet for four-year institutions in our state to offer upper level undergraduate and graduate courses in a local setting. Perhaps the greatest opportunity that the ITFS spectrum brings to our college is the possibility of sharing resources with other community colleges such as having faculty members teach a class at several colleges at the same time using interactive video. The North Carolina Community College System has created a Virtual Learning Community for all of the colleges to work together to enhance the distance education opportunities in North Carolina and ITFS is an essential part of the continued growth in this area.

There are other frequencies that could accommodate 3-G which would not take away one that will benefit students. I wish to see the FCC explore these possibilities and not jeopardize the technological advances made by educational institutions. While it is difficult to project the future, technological advances we can experience with the availability of the ITFS spectrum are undoubtedly an essential part of our future growth. We wish to continue to fulfill our mission of providing many educational opportunities. Keeping the current ITFS spectrum and the advanced technology that it allows is essential.

Sincerely,

Frank L. Eagles
President

cc: Peter A. Tenhila, Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Chairman Michael L. Powell

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