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BRUNSWICK

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ET Docket 00-258

February 18, 2001

Julius Knapp, Chief
Policy and Rules Division
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Knapp:

I am writing to express my deep concern over a potentially serious problem facing the educational community-the cellular phone industries attempt to take away the Instructional Television Fixed Service spectrum currently allocated to educational institutions by the Federal Communications Commission. Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, many groups would lose their ITFS service altogether, while others would face new equipment costs, service disruption and cutbacks, lower quality of service and signal interference. More importantly, the ITFS community would be incapable of supporting advanced wireless services and promoting the development of broadband Internet services to the educational community and to underserved communities nationwide.

Brunswick Community College is one of 39 Community Colleges in North Carolina committed to the ITFS project. Brunswick Community College's service area is Brunswick County; the 2000 census indicates a population of 71,190. The County encompasses approximately 900 square miles and is primarily rural. We are bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the state of South Carolina, to the north by New Hanover County and to the west by Columbus County. The center of our County includes the Green Swamp, encompassing approximately 70 square miles. The major population base is found in three areas- Southport-Oak Island, Leland and the South Brunswick Islands. Even though the College is located in the geographic center of the County, we depend on off-campus centers in Southport and Leland to assist us in meeting the needs of our citizens. Our future plans include an additional off-campus center in the South Brunswick Islands area.

In order to reach our rural population and others who would not otherwise have access to the opportunities that lifelong learning can provide for them, it is important for the College to continue its efforts to link the different areas of the County utilizing the most up-to-date technology available, including wireless cable. As illustrated in our attached Utilization Plan, we will make more programs and courses available to our citizens, particularly those who are handicapped and those who have problems with transportation.

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Additionally, we will link with the public schools to provide on-site college courses to high school students and teacher renewal credit courses for teaches seeking certificate renewal opportunities and with our regional university to provide higher education opportunities. New ITFS/MMDS broadband wireless service is critical to our success in bridging the digital divide, especially in rural Brunswick County.

I urge you to do whatever is necessary to maintain the integrity of the ITFS spectrum and not allow education to bear the brunt of losing its spectrum for 3G transmissions. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Sincerely,

W. Michael Reaves

W. Michael Reaves
President

cc: Parks Todd
North Carolina Community College Systems Office

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLEGE
ITFS ESTIMATED USAGE
ONE YEAR

SERVICES

SERVICE	HOURS PER WEEK
Electronic Mail	68
Web-based information access	68
File Transfer	8
Video access	20
Interactive video	8
Video classes	35
High-resolution video	N/A

APPLICATIONS
ANNUAL – ONE YEAR

APPLICATION	CLASSES/PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS
Curriculum courses	20	200
Continuing Education courses	20	250
High School courses	8	80
University degree-completion courses	8	40
Professional development	6	70
Administration	4	80
Government	2	30
Military Training	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A