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VIDEO SERVICES DIVISION

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Community College

"Change Your World"

February 22, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Roy Stewart, Chief
Mass Media Bureau
Room 2-C334
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The North Carolina Community College System Wireless Technology Consortium needs your help. This effort has been building for five years. Now, because of opposition, we are in danger of losing the very bandwidth that we need for this project to come to fruition.

We are faced with the defeat of a statewide collaboration that could provide state-of-the-art technology for educational life-long-learning for rural areas with an affordable price tag. The proliferation of mobile/handheld devices threatens to take over the bandwidth that is needed for these educational opportunities. Many hours of preparation in the development of the consortium will have been wasted. These channels are critical to the implementation of the network for the NCCCS.

North Carolina has the leadership to ensure the success of our wireless network, which is the next step in closing the digital divide. We feel that we have demonstrated, over the past five years, the need and the ability to use these channels.

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At Lenoir Community College, we feel that our services will be enhanced by the use of wireless technology. Services we will provide over the network include electronic mail for remote campuses, help desk assistance, video conferencing, remote access to student services and additional distance education capabilities as well as many others. You can help us to achieve this vision by working to retain the MMDS and ITFS channels for educational use.

Respectfully,

Karin Pettit

Dr. Karin Pettit, President
Lenoir Community College

cc: Barbara Kreisman, Chief
Video Services Division
Mass Media Bureau
Room 2-A666