

Hawkeye Community College
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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, 445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC Docket No 03-66, RM-10586

To the Secretary:

Hawkeye Community College (HCC) submits its reply comments concerning the above Docket.

In 1965 the Iowa Legislature created the vocational/technical school concept that would provide for education and training in a post secondary environment. Born from this was merged Area VII. Merged Area VII consists of all or parts of ten counties in northeast Iowa. In 1966 the college officially became known as Hawkeye Institute of Technology.

In 1992, Hawkeye became a comprehensive community college with the addition of arts and sciences to the curriculum. In July 1993, the name was officially changed to Hawkeye Community College. Hawkeye Community College has graduated more than 30,000 credit students since July 1, 1966. In addition, in that time period, the college has had more than 725,000 registrations in Continuing Education programs. Record enrollments have occurred the past few years. Fall 2003 enrollment set a record of over 5,000 students.

HCC began operation of its ITFS system in 1991 with ten channels, two channels per county seat location, WLX209 through WLX213. The educational services provided by these five locations include credit and continuing education courses. Additionally, local cable television companies receive our educational access channel over ITFS during non-instruction hours. HCC provides information about its programs and credit courses to over twenty communities.

In June 2003, citizens in this ten county area passed a \$25 million bond issue, reaffirming the area's commitment to a valuable resource. Considerable funding has been earmarked for digital upgrades of the ITFS system. Press releases prior to the June bond issue indicated that funding would be allocated for these upgrades.

Currently, HCC is in the planning stages of the upgrades. Additional digitized video channels are planned. Plans also include expanding services for faculty and possibly students utilizing 2 way wireless broadband services to the home. Approximately 55% of the faculty is adjunct and don't have daily access to college services. HCC has no student housing, all students commute daily or receive instruction through distance learning.

As a member of the National ITFS Association, HCC fully supports the proposals put forth by the association. Two issues of major concern are the elimination of high power operation and the open eligibility requirements. Elimination of high power would effectively kill ITFS service to this mostly rural ten county area and diminish HCC's ability to fulfill its educational mission. Current eligibility requirements should be retained that limit ITFS licenses only for not-for-profit organizations that have demonstrated an educational mission.

Dr. Roger Rezabek
Director of Distance Learning
Hawkeye Community College