

Alfred University-Time Warner Cable agreement boosts campus Internet service

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ALFRED -- Alfred University's Internet capabilities have been dramatically improved, thanks to an agreement with new Internet service provider Time Warner Cable that went into effect this morning. A new fiber optic connection, which replaces the previous wireless connection, increases the University's Internet capacity five-fold, from nine megabits to 45 megabits (T3 equivalent). The new service will increase capacity and speed of connectivity, provide more reliable connections and decrease restrictions on campus Internet traffic. "This is an extremely significant opportunity for our campus," commented Lana Meissner, Alfred University Vice President for Information Services and Director of Information Technology Services. "It has really leveled the playing field in terms of Internet service and makes us so much more competitive." The greatest benefits will be enjoyed by students and faculty, who are relying more and more on the World Wide Web. "This allows our educational use of the Internet to be greatly enhanced," said Meissner. "The benefits to faculty and students are tremendous." Indeed, increased bandwidth will allow faculty and students to more easily and quickly transmit electronic files and access University resources for the purposes of conducting research and completing class work. "Our libraries have made an effort to make electronic resources (on-line journals, i.e.) available," Meissner said. "This expanded service supports that effort. It ensures that all students have equal access to those resources." Departments throughout the campus will be better equipped with the new service. "This is a tremendous benefit to the administrative offices that rely on the Internet. It will significantly improve the way we do business on campus," Meissner said. Internet users will be pleased by the speed by which connections can be made, and the decreased likelihood of interruptions. "This greatly increases the reliability of our Internet connection," said Dennis King, Information Security Officer and Information Technology Project Manager for Alfred University. The previous wireless connection, King explained, was susceptible to interruptions in service, caused mostly by poor weather. Much more reliable is the fiber optic connection provided by Time Warner, which guarantees a 99.93-percent average monthly availability of service. Adrian Morling, Alfred University Manager of Network Services, said the capacity and speed of Alfred's Internet service is now on par with campuses that are substantially larger in size. "This is huge. In 1994, we had one T1 line with 1.5 megabits. Less than 10 years later, we've had a 30-fold increase," Morling said. "This really puts us on the map." Meissner credited Time Warner Cable, a giant in the Internet service industry, for working with Alfred University. "Rural areas have typically been under-served when it comes to Internet connectivity. We've had to pay more for less, but Time Warner Cable came in and made it affordable to us," she said. "We are extremely pleased to have partnered with Alfred University in this important endeavor," said David Whalen, Time Warner's Vice President for Public and Governmental Relations. "Today's educational environment demands fast, reliable Internet connectivity. This will enhance the educational experience for students and faculty alike."