



Springfield Technical Community College

Exceptional Education. Proven Results.

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March 24, 2010

Google, Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, California

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), I am writing in support of bringing the Google Fiber Optic Network to Springfield, Massachusetts.

As the only technical community college in the commonwealth, STCC offers numerous academic programs that are heavily technology-based. Two of our institution's strategic directions are "communicating and collaborating across campus," and "innovation and embracing change." The Google Fiber for Communities plan would enable the college to better fill our mission and to better serve our nearly 7,000 students, who become vital members of the workforce of this city and region.

In several ways, STCC already benefits from partnerships with Google. In 2008, STCC introduced Google Applications for Education to the college's students. All credit students are now provided with a free Google gmail account. Official college email is sent to these accounts, from the Registrar, Admissions, and other offices, and faculty are able to quickly contact their students to remind them of upcoming exams or notify them of a change in class schedule. There were a number of factors that led to the decision to utilize Google Apps, including a green initiative on campus to reduce the amount of hard copy mail produced.

The utilization of gmail accounts could be expanded to other components of the college community, such as the network for faculty and staff.

Google Docs has become a popular medium for collaboration on campus. For instance, work on the recent NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) review has taken place in Google Docs. As college-wide groups jointly study issues for this decennial re-accreditation process, individual contributions are posted on Google Docs sites. The campus has been pleased with the collaborative tools offered by Google, and we look forward to continuing the relationship with Google.

STCC is also reviewing its infrastructure. As we look toward the future in regard to campus equipment and labs, we see a need for student-owned equipment and an infrastructure that richly supports the students' requirements. Currently, 34 wireless

access points have been deployed on campus to support the college's student-owned equipment initiative.

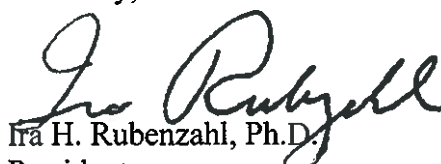
Students who have their own equipment, with access to the Internet, will be better prepared to enjoy an enriched academic experience, and to become productive members of the workforce. Yet many of our students who are residents of Springfield may not have the financial resources to pay for broadband Internet access. Working with a project such as the Google Fiber for Communities will better position the students of this community to have that access.

Additional benefits to STCC from the Google Fiber Network include

- Providing students who are unable to come to class on certain days, due to illness or other issues, the ability to sit in on their classes from home
- Expanding our online offerings to allow credit and non-credit students to attend class and even labs virtually, on their own schedule, as they could send and receive audio and video
- Increasing virtual computing from home for employees, due to increased upload and download speeds
- Providing a richer academic experience for our students, who could become developers for the next generation of applications
- Expanding the college's ability to partner with other higher educational institutions and with organizations for research projects

Springfield Technical Community College heartily endorses the city of Springfield's application for the Google Fiber for Communities project, and looks forward to the benefits it would provide to our college community and our city. Should you need further information, please contact me at 413/755-4424.

Sincerely,


Ira H. Rubenzahl, Ph.D.
President