Back to School
A wireless LAN solution from AT&T keeps students connected at two California campuses.

California's Yuba Community College District (YCCD) offers students a wide array of programs in the arts, sciences and vocational fields. And its campuses in Marysville, 40 miles north of Sacramento, and Woodland, 20 miles northwest of Sacramento, provide lush, parklike settings with ample outdoor space in which to study, exercise or just hang out with friends. But what the District didn't offer, until recently, was wireless Internet access. A student with a laptop and a long break between classes—a common collegiate scheduling dilemma—had two alternatives: stick around campus without Internet access, or drive to a coffee shop for wireless connectivity.

Watching as carloads of students deserted these beautiful campuses every day between classes, school administrators realized that they needed to do something. "Students were telling our faculty that they needed a way to connect to the Internet on campus," explains Scott Snelgrove, computer network services manager for YCCD. "The teachers were coming to us looking for an answer. The faculty wanted the ability to use their laptops on campus as well."

The solution, Snelgrove knew, would have to be secure, reliable, reasonably priced and able to run without additional staffing. Money for the wireless Internet installation would come from a $190 million capital expenditure bond that voters approved in November 2006 to finance the District's master plan. A small portion of the proceeds was budgeted for wireless Internet. "We're a community college," Snelgrove says, "and we couldn't afford a system that would require us to add extra IT personnel."

Problem Solved
Turning to AT&T was the logical first step. The District, established 80 years ago, has had a long and productive relationship with AT&T, which provides local and long-distance service for hundreds of the District's office phones. "We're

always in discussion with AT&T on various issues," Snelgrove says, "and they knew we were interested in a wireless Internet product. They told us, 'We have the solution.'"

The answer was a wireless local area network (LAN) solution. The service, explained AT&T technical sales specialist Steve Smyth, would allow students and faculty to access the Internet on their personal laptops in campus courtyards, libraries, cafeterias and parks—in short, everywhere that students or faculty gather. It would give students the wireless Internet access they needed to research term papers and reports, check class syllabi, view school materials, pay bills, check email, download and listen to music, or simply chat with friends. "Everything they'd been doing off campus, they'd now be able to do on campus," Smyth said.

Yuba Community College District Facts

- **Industry Focus**
  A California community college offering a wide array of programs in the arts and sciences as well as vocational and technical fields

- **Size**
  Campuses in Clear Lake, Marysville and Woodland, Calif., with roughly 11,500 students overall

- **Business Needs**
  Campuswide wireless Internet access allowing students and faculty to work from their laptops at any time

- **Communications Solutions**
  AT&T designed and implemented a wireless LAN solution for the District while training Yuba's IT staff to administer and maintain the new system.

Snelgrove liked what he heard. It was especially important to him that Yuba's IT staff be able to deal with just one company for maintenance and upgrades. "I wanted a one-throat-to-choke approach," he jokes. Jim Wheeler, integrated solutions manager at AT&T, explained that the company would call on extra resources for the actual hardware and installation, but that the ultimate solution would be "completely turnkey." Snelgrove was reassured that once the system was up and running, "the only folks my IT people would deal with would be AT&T."

"Wireless Internet has been great for our college and for our students. The reliability of the product and AT&T's work in setting it up have been just terrific."

**–Scott Snelgrove, Computer Network Services Manager,
Yuba Community College District**

Snelgrove, Smyth and Wheeler, along with the rest of the AT&T account team, canvassed both campuses to determine the best spots for wireless access. For each of these locations, the District purchased access points, the site-specific equipment that makes wireless Internet use possible. The wireless LAN from AT&T also features state-of-the-art security, with students and faculty using their identification numbers to log on. Adding new users and upgrading the network are simple matters easily done by Yuba's own IT staff—another of the District's main requirements.

Added Benefits

The system, up and running since last October, has been an instant hit with students. "They love it," Snelgrove says, "and it's so reliable. We'll see groups of students working together in the library or the cafeteria, and more kids are now coming here on weekends to get access."

Yuba's wireless access has helped the District address two additional challenges. Previously, when students left the campus to find wireless Internet access, they typically bought their coffee, lunch and snacks elsewhere, squeezing the school's cafeteria revenues. Moreover, the constant flow of traffic increased auto emissions. With the wireless LAN solution from AT&T, Snelgrove says, these concerns are now less worrisome.

Wheeler says YCCD is now considering some system upgrades, and in the years ahead, the District anticipates extending the service to two buildings now under construction, as well as to its smaller Clear Lake campus nearby. Snelgrove says he looks forward to running the District's security system and cameras off the wireless network; his staff will be able to monitor campus activities remotely. "Wireless Internet has been great for our District and for our students," Snelgrove says. "The reliability of the product and AT&T's work in setting it up have been just terrific."

For more information contact your AT&T Representative or visit us at www.corp.att.com/edu.

at&t
Your world. Delivered.