

Tuesday, September 09, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Eight years ago when the Internet was first being introduced to education, I had the charge of supplying Internet connectivity to our nine school districts and three vocational schools. This task was a huge undertaking with a price tag that was very significant. As the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit began to roll out the newly designed frame relay network, and I had the opportunity to meet representatives of Nittany Media Cable. Nittany Media Cable was very active in the Juniata County School District by providing the school district with cable television. Through their connection to all the buildings of the district they were able to provide many educational programs provided by a cable connection. Programs like CNN Cable News, Cable For The Classroom, and many others. What was amazing was they were being served and provided to every building of the district at no charge to the district. To have a private cable company wire such a large area and then provide the programming for no fee was something I had not heard of at that time or any other time thereafter.

Whenever I approached Nittany Media about and the Internet connection soon to be provided to the administration office, Michael Haun, from Nittany Media, suggested that they could distribute the Internet signal throughout the complete district and would be willing to do so for no fee. This company provided all of the cable modems, wire and expertise to distribute the Internet to the complete Juniata County School District, a total of eight buildings in all.

The Tuscarora Intermediate Unit is currently discussing with Nittany Media the possibility of completing a fiber line to our building, which would allow the distribution of digital content to our districts. We look forward to the day whenever our educational video collection will be made available to all students through a connection that will be built and maintained Nittany Media.

Nittany Media Cable under the direction of the Hain family is by far the most community minded, supporters of public education I have ever work with in my years as the Director for Technology Services here at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit.

I look forward to working with Nittany Media Cable in the future on technology projects that will have far reaching results in our local classrooms

Sincerely,

Tony Payne, Director for Technology Services
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11