



PRESS RELEASE

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Widener University Selects Comcast Metro Ethernet Services to Enhance Disaster Preparedness Initiatives

Four campuses and several K-12 districts across greater Philadelphia region offer uninterrupted access to the Internet for students and faculty

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – January 31, 2012 – Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA, CMCSK), one of the nation's leading providers of communications, information and entertainment products and services, today announced that it is providing Metro [Ethernet service](#) to Widener University, headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania. With this solution, more than 7,800 students and faculty will have 24/7 access to technology services such as cloud computing and web-based educational tools.

A metropolitan university with four different campuses across Pennsylvania and Delaware, Widener also serves as a central technology hub for several K-12 local school districts, providing Internet access from its Chester location. While high bandwidth is vital to the daily operations of both the university and the school districts it serves, an equally important requirement is uninterrupted Internet connectivity, even under the most unexpected of circumstances.

When a snowplow accidentally struck one of Widener's central telephone poles during a recent blizzard, the university quickly realized that the many precautions it had taken to ensure 24/7 Internet access were simply not enough to withstand a disaster situation. The school had previously been using an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) DS3 loop to connect campus headquarters with its Delaware location, and had also implemented a secondary connection to help prevent any loss of connectivity in the event of an outage. When the snowplow struck, however, it soon became apparent that both providers were utilizing the same telephone line, thus immobilizing all campus connectivity until the pole had been repaired.

"As a metropolitan university with campuses and affiliated K-12 school districts across the region, we were already a step ahead of most educational institutions through our investment in two different high-speed Ethernet networks," said Perry Drayfahl, director of technical resources at Widener University. "We soon realized, however, that many of these networks still ran through the same central repository, which in our case happened to be the very same repository that was struck by a snowplow. We quickly understood that we needed a separate network that was completely independent from traditional phone lines to help protect us from something like that happening again."

Comcast responded by offering an [Ethernet Dedicated Internet](#) (EDI) solution that allowed Widener to access the Internet via its own independent pathway. This was done by utilizing existing fiber cable that resided beneath the campus, and allowed the university to completely bypass both its central communications pole and its primary data center, going straight to a secondary data center instead. In the event of an outage, this secondary network, which also

provided more bandwidth for the same price as Widener had previously been paying, would allow the university to stay connected even if its primary network went down.

“There are few places where the rapid flow of information is more essential than in a university, and ensuring that students are able to transfer homework assignments, download class lectures and access streaming video is critical to ensuring that they are making the most of their time at school,” said Michael Maloney, vice president of Comcast Business Services, Freedom Region. “Disaster situations are inevitable, but our goal is to ensure that, even if an unexpected outage were to occur, the only people who are aware of an issue are those in the IT department.”

About Widener University

Widener University is a private, metropolitan university that connects curricula to social issues through civic engagement. Dynamic teaching, active scholarship, personal attention, and experiential learning are key components of the Widener experience. The university is comprised of eight schools and colleges that offer liberal arts and sciences, professional and pre-professional curricula leading to associate’s, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Widener’s campuses in Chester, Exton, and Harrisburg, Pa., and Wilmington, Del., serve some 7,800 students and faculty. For more information, visit www.widener.edu.

About Comcast Business Services

[Comcast Business Services](#), a unit of Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA, CMCSK), provides advanced communication solutions to help organizations of all sizes meet their business objectives. Through a modern, company-owned fiber network that is backed by 24/7 technical support, Comcast delivers Business Class Internet, TV and Voice services for cost-effective, simplified communications management.

Launched in 2011, the Comcast Business Class Ethernet suite offers high-performance point-to-point and multi-point Metro Ethernet services with the capacity to deliver cloud computing, software-as-a-service, business continuity/disaster recovery and other bandwidth-intensive applications. Comcast Metro Ethernet services are significantly faster than T1 lines and other legacy technologies, providing scalable bandwidth from 1 Mbps up to 10 Gigabits-per-second (Gbps) in more than 20 major US markets.

For more information, call 1-866-429-3085 visit www.business.comcast.com/enterprise .

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