Distance Learning Scope

KTS began delivering classes in the fall of 1980. The first class linked the main campus to Iowa City. Today, the KTS system delivers interactive classes to ten separate learning centers in Kirkwood’s seven county service area that covers 4,300 square miles. KTS learning centers are located in Belle Plaine, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Marion, Monticello, Resource Center, Tipton, Vinton, Washington and Williamsburg.

Due to the age of the current KTS distance learning equipment and technology the KTS system will step into the digital age on 1-8-07 with the start of spring classes. The new digital upgrade will give students, faculty and staff greater reliability, flexibility and more options than the current technology. Research and planning for the digital upgrade has been going on for the past two years and now in a few short months will become a reality.

Not only will KTS classes be delivered to the Kirkwood centers by the new digital upgrade but voice and data will also be delivered along with some new innovative options that are being explored. The general contractor for the project is Dascom Systems Group out of Minneapolis. Besides Dascom other key team members are Kirkwood’s IT/Telecommunications division, Iowa Communications Network, Foundry Networks, VBrick, Renovo, and Eastview.

Equipment is starting to arrive. Wiring is being put into place. Cutover and testing will take place during Christmas break and by January 8, 2006 the new digital system will be fully operational.