

F I N A L R E P O R T
EDUCATION UPLINK STUDY COMMITTEE

January, 1988

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

On July 17, 1986, the Iowa Legislative Council authorized the establishment of a committee to study the expenditures and uses of telecommunications for educational purposes. The joint leadership of the Iowa General Assembly was directed to name both legislative and nonlegislative members.

At the December 3, 1986 Legislative Council meeting, the Legislative Council authorized the expenditure of up to \$200,000 for the costs associated with employing Mr. Larry G. Patten, former Executive Director of Iowa Public Television, as a consultant to develop a plan for a statewide system of educational telecommunications. The proposed design plan would have the capability of linking through telecommunications the three state universities, Iowa independent colleges and universities, Iowa Public Television, school districts, merged area schools, and area education agencies. The proposal, as adopted by the Legislative Council, called for the Southwest Iowa area to be used as a pilot project. The Education Uplink Study Committee was assigned the task of monitoring the activities of the consultant. Accordingly, a contract was signed on January 21, 1987, by the Co-chairpersons of the Committee and Larry G. Patten.

The consultant agreed in conjunction with the development of the statewide plan to select points for duplex video educational centers, switching control centers, instructional television fixed service (ITFS) transmission locations, and potential ITFS receiver sites; to select specific site locations and the clearance of frequencies for merged areas XIII and XIV; to obtain Federal Communications Commission licenses and Federal Aviation Administration permits; and to assist with the development of bid specifications for materials and services necessary to complete the communications system.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Study Committee was as follows:

Senator Larry Murphy, Oelwein, Co-chairperson
Representative C. Arthur Ollie, Clinton, Co-chairperson
Speaker Donald Avenson, Oelwein
Senator Calvin O. Hultman, Red Oak

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Senator Wally Horn, Cedar Rapids
Representative Tom Miller, Cherokee
Dr. Carol Bradley, Department of Education, Des Moines
Dr. Richard Byerly, Southwestern Iowa Community College,
Creston
Ms. Rose Dillard, Superintendent, Mid-Prairie Community
Schools, Wellman
Ms. Mary Crum, Teacher, Lewis Central Community Schools,
Glenwood
Dr. Robert Hardman, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
Dr. John Hartung, Iowa Association of Independent Colleges
and Universities, Des Moines
Mr. James Larsen, United Telephone Company of Iowa, Newton
Ms. Cynthia Lidgett, Department of Economic Development,
Des Moines
Ms. Connie Maxson, Iowa Educational Media Association,
Ottumwa
Dr. Douglas C. Parks, Loess Hills Area Education Agency,
Council Bluffs
Mr. Donald Saveraid, Iowa Public Television, Johnston
Mr. Dave Schmidt, Heart of Iowa Telephone Cooperative, Union
Dr. Michael Simonson, Iowa State University, Ames
Mr. Jack Walters, Department of General Services, Des Moines
Dr. Emmett Vaughn, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Some members were unable to attend the meetings and sent other individuals as their designees.

MEETINGS

The Education Uplink Study Committee held three meetings on January 30, 1987, February 27, 1987, and August 5, 1987.

JANUARY 30 MEETING

At the January 30 meeting, Mr. Larry Patten distributed a copy of a preliminary report he had written entitled, "The Iowa Plan for Educational Telecommunications." He discussed the importance of maintaining local and regional control and flexibility over any telecommunications system. Copies of the preliminary report may be obtained from the Legislative Service Bureau.

Mr. Patten also described proposed legislation to establish a public corporation to plan, establish, and coordinate educational telecommunications systems and services throughout the state. He stated that he intended to file an application for a grant from the federal government for funding for establishment of an educational telecommunications system for Southwest Iowa. He also intended to issue a request for information to the telecommunications industry to obtain data about the technology available from private companies in Iowa.

FEBRUARY 27 MEETING

At the February 27, 1987, meeting held at Linn Hall, Kirkwood Community College, in Cedar Rapids, the Committee members were a part of a demonstration of interactive video that involved transmission and receiving from a remote site. Dr. Doug Gross from Kirkwood Community College described the several telecommunications systems in use at the Community College.

Mr. Larry Patten discussed his activities over the month that had elapsed since the last Committee meeting. He attended a series of town meetings in Southwest Iowa and presented information and answered questions about the proposed telecommunications plan. He also had met with representatives of the education community from throughout the state.

Mr. Patten stated that the proposed legislation establishing a corporation for public telecommunications was progressing through the legislative process as was a bill relating to the development of educational policy for a telecommunications system.

LEGISLATION ENACTED

The Iowa General Assembly enacted two pieces of legislation relating to educational telecommunications during the 1987 Session. Senate File 162 requires the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board to serve as facilitator and coordinator of educational telecommunications in the state. Senate File 333 provides a policy and procedures framework for the delivery system for educational telecommunications.

AUGUST 5 MEETING

The final meeting of the Education Uplink Study Committee was held on August 5, 1987, at the Iowa Public Television Facility. Mr. Patten presented his final report. He recommended that the system use a variety of different technologies and that the system ensure cooperation among the various educational entities.

Mr. Patten outlined a proposed fiber optic route and backbone lines for the system. He suggested the locations of four proposed regional technical centers. He has cleared ITFS frequencies for the entire state.

The Education Uplink Study Committee received Mr. Patten's final report on behalf of the Legislative Council.