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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCC GOES WIRELESS

KAMLOOPS—The University College of the Cariboo is piloting a wireless communications program to measure its benefits in the classroom.

UCC is using a communications system marketed through Avaya Wireless, which allows users to access the Internet without "plugging in."

The system provides service to eight classrooms, seven in the Old Main Building as well as one in House 10, the Horticulture building.

"Previous to this, these rooms weren't wired for network activity," said Dave Burkholder, an Electronics Technician at UCC. "Now we have equipment we can test in classrooms and meeting rooms that could ultimately be used in different areas."

The technology provides access to the World Wide Web in addition to the internal UCC community.

"If an instructor wanted to use a Web site for a presentation in class that does not have network access, he or she could sign out a multi-media cart that has one of the wireless units," said Burkholder.

A special wireless card is plugged into a PC, which then receives information from a transmitter installed into the ceiling.

"It works something like a cordless telephone or a cell phone, so you can move anywhere," said Burkholder. "Now you don't have to have a wired connection in order to get on the Web."

Burkholder added this is an important program because it will allow the UCC community to investigate the benefits of further wireless technology here. UCC has one of the largest computer networks in the city with an estimated 1,500 computers connected to a central system.

For more information on the UCC wireless pilot project, please contact David Burkholder at 828-5324 or Wesley Cole at 828-5322.