Belhaven University First College in Mississippi to Provide Fiber Optic Gigabit Internet Service for Students

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Belhaven University signed an agreement with C Spire to become the first college in Mississippi to offer students Gigabit Internet access and related Super™ HD television service. The agreement will also provide wireless phones, voice over IP phone service and dedicated high-speed fiber optic Internet access to the 400 full-time faculty and administration on the 50-acre campus in northeast Jackson.

All 700 residential Belhaven students living in the University’s six residence halls will receive the services, which include 1 Gbps (Gigabit per second) broadband Internet access up to 6.5 times faster than the speediest broadband connections on most U.S. college campuses today and super HD TV service with dedicated DVRs in each residence hall room.

A 2014 analysis by Valore Books, a college textbook reseller, and Testmy.net, a data speed testing service, of the top 100 colleges in the U.S. with the fastest Internet access placed Lamar State College in Port Arthur, Texas in the No. 1 spot with download speeds averaging 154.8 Mbps (Megabits per second) and upload speeds of 47.8 Mbps. In contrast, Belhaven students will have download and upload speeds of up to 1,000 Mbps.

On college campuses across the nation, the average student owns seven Internet-connected devices, including phones, computers, gaming consoles, streaming TV boxes, printers, tablets and e-readers and uses them over 125 hours each week, according to a 2014 nationwide online survey of 1,209 students between the ages of 18 and 34 by Crux Research and re:fuel agency, a New York-based marketing firm.

Students bring iPads, tablets or laptops to class, purchase e-textbooks, participate in Skype study groups or post their homework to online services such as Blackboard, according to Brian Caraway, senior vice president of Enterprise

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