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Federal Communications Commission
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SAINT ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL COMPUTER STUDENTS TO BE HONORED TODAY BY FCC FOR THEIR HELP IN TESTING AUCTION SOFTWARE

Washington, DC -- Today, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will be honoring 21 computer students from Saint Anselm's Abbey High School, Washington, DC, for their help in testing a new software interface for the upcoming 700 MHz auction.

Last summer, auction rules for package bidding were developed and a software system was implemented to conduct the 700 MHz auction. This auction will include 12 regional licenses and will allow bidders to create packages of 2 or more licenses and bid on up to 12 packages in the auction.

Because the auction rules and the software interface had never been used in an auction, the Wireless Bureau, along with the software development contractor and subcontractor, trained 21 students from St. Anselm's to participate in a test of the Package Bidding System. The students received three sessions of training before the first test that was conducted on Saturday, January 20, 2001. A debriefing of the first auction and further preparation for a second test was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2001. The final auction test was conducted on Saturday, February 10, 2001.

The bureau's objective in having high school students learn the rules and participate in a test auction was to enhance its training capabilities, find software bugs in the system, and determine if the concepts and rules of a combinatorial auction could be easily explained and understood. It also hoped that the students could identify strategies that they employed to win in the auction. The students were given license and package valuation and an overall budget for the auction. The bureau attempted to create financial incentives for the students so that the auction would simulate an actual auction.

The event today will be at 2:15 pm in the 3rd Floor South Conference Room at the FCC, 445 12th St., SW.