

**Montana School District 6 and Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation deploy WirelessGRID™ Backhaul and Multipoint bridges for communication between educational sites.**

## **Education Customer Profile**

### **A Couple of Challenges**

Columbia Falls School District #6 in Columbia Falls, Montana, was faced with the challenge of setting up a network between a main communications facility and another building without clear line of site.

The Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation, located in Whiteland, IN, was faced with the task of replacing lightning damaged equipment on a limited budget, and with an easy-to-install, cost-effective, and reliable system for their "hotspot" areas.

### **AIRAYA Solution**

After an extensive search, Mr. Wilkinson, Technology Coordinator and IT Manager for Columbia Falls, Montana School District #6, found that the AIRAYA WirelessGRID™ backhaul bridges were the perfect solution for the school districts unique "line of site" problem. AIRAYA's WirelessGRID™ backhaul bridges are designed for applications requiring high bandwidth and are available in both repeater and backhaul versions. Using a combination of the two, the school was able to solve their problem with plenty of throughput and at a minimal cost.



"The support from AIRAYA was very influential in our decision", stated Mr. Wilkinson. "I found their staff to be very knowledgeable and willing to help. They got back to me with a call or email within hours, sometimes minutes. Marilyn LaSorte, the Administrator of Technology, was thrilled that AIRAYA offered them factory reconditioned models to help stay within the districts' limited budget".

In the case of Clark-Pleasant Community School, they were having a difficult time replacing lightning damaged equipment and found that by using AIRAYA WirelessGRID Multipoint bridges, they could carry both voice and data traffic to their remote buildings. "Prior to purchasing AIRAYA products, we were utilizing much more expensive Western Multiplex (Proxim) and Cisco Products. Each of these products was expensive (especially when compared with the AIRAYA equipment) and had substantial limitations concerning the number of available channels when configured for use in a noisy RF environment". "These links range in distance from 1.5 to 3 miles with very heavy utilization of both voice and data applications and out of the box, we have never seen a solution as solid as the AIRAYA system" said Mr. White. "The bridges were easy to install, simple to align and once installed, incredibly reliable".

## Conclusion

In both cases, AIRAYA's proven WirelessGRID outdoor wireless bridges were used to solve tough problems common in education today. WirelessGRID bridges solve line-of-sight issues, are simple to configure, easy to align, and are fast, reliable and affordable extensions to wired networks, and are backed with an excellent warranty and service plan. AIRAYA sales and technical personnel are seasoned experts in the field.

Mr. Wilkinson of District 6 stated "I was very pleased with the help from your sales and tech staff. They were very valuable in helping us make the decision to purchase the AIRAYA WirelessGRID™ backhaul bridges."

As a follow on to the initial success in Montana, District 6 decided to purchase another link to replace a currently installed product that just wasn't doing the job. "The new AIRAYA links provide much better bandwidth and reliability" stated Mr. Wilkinson.

As a follow on to the initial success in Indiana, the Clark-Pleasant Community School has implemented two additional installations with AIRAYA equipment. "Simply put, the AIRAYA solution was the most cost effective we found and the installation was done with 100% satisfaction each time" stated Mr. Jim White. "As we continue to grow and build additional facilities, we plan to utilize AIRAYA WirelessGRID systems as the backbone for our WAN and voice trunk connections".

## The AIRAYA advantage: Why AIRAYA?

At AIRAYA, our award winning outdoor wireless bridge products provide secure outdoor network communication at speeds up to 108 Mbps, enabling higher education and K12 facilities to provide instant access to campus resources, providing high speed network access to an entire campus, a hard to wire building, or in a single classroom.

WirelessGRID bridges deliver a comprehensive set of features ensuring fast, secure and reliable networking services. Commercial WirelessGRID bridges operate in the 5.25-5.35, 5.47-5.72, or 5.725-5.85 GHz frequency bands, and can operate on 5, 10, 20, or 40 MHz wide channels, allowing for maximum utilization of available spectrum. Configuration and management are simple, using industry standard HTML, Telnet and SNMP. Multiple levels of security, including embedded 128-bit AES data encryption, ensure that data is protected and secure, with no unauthorized access to WirelessGRID networks.

## **About the City of Columbia Falls, Montana**

Columbia Falls is the "Gateway to Glacier National Park." It is a community of about 3,700 people located just 18 miles south of West Glacier. The mission of the city of Columbia Falls is to foster a community that appeals to individuals, families, businesses and investors. The residents here pride themselves in maintaining the "small-town" atmosphere and the sense of community spirit that has been the backbone of this community for many years.

Columbia Falls School District #6 has 180 staff members supporting a school district that has three grade schools; K-5 neighborhood schools, a 600 student middle school and a high school with 900 students.

## **About the Town of Whiteland, Indiana**

Whiteland, Indiana, a small town of about 4,300 residents, is located in north/central Johnson County, approximately 19 miles south of Indianapolis, IN. The town's mission is to provide public services and government representation for the community and to insure public welfare and safety of all visitors, residents, schools, and business in the Town of Whiteland.

## **About AIRAYA**

AIRAYA is a world-class designer of fast and affordable outdoor wireless multipoint and backhaul products used in service provider, education, enterprise, government, public safety, and healthcare installations worldwide. AIRAYA outdoor wireless bridges are installed in many k-12 and higher education facilities around the world.

### **For more information:**

Please contact AIRAYA or an AIRAYA authorized reseller partner.



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