



Commnet Brings Fiber Connectivity Inside a National Park to Serve Hundreds of Students in Grand Canyon Unified School District

Complex, multi-year project now allows students access to expanded curriculum.

August 11, 2022 – Students and staff in the Grand Canyon Unified School District are starting the school year with unlimited digital possibilities. The remote district now has reliable fiber broadband connectivity.

Through a highly complex fiber build that spanned several years, Commnet Broadband officially placed the project in service this summer, allowing the district to access high-speed internet for the start of the school year.

The district is comprised of one K-12 school, located inside Grand Canyon National Park – the only U.S. school located completely inside a national park. The remote and historic location posed a number of challenges to build a reliable fiber network. Construction crews carefully navigated more than 15 archaeological sites, Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park, among other terrain challenges. In total, 67 miles of fiber was placed between Williams, Arizona and the Grand Canyon Unified School District, partly buried along Arizona State Route 64 and partly on electric poles in order to reach the school district buildings.

“This project is an example of perseverance. There were many hurdles to maneuver for us to safely and respectfully bring fiber internet to this school district. I’m pleased that we were able to navigate them to provide this service to the students and staff,” said Tom Guthrie, CEO of Commnet Broadband. “This is a very rewarding project and I congratulate all those who played a role in making it successful.”

Previously, the district had a microwave signal and averaged 20 Mbps (megabites per second). The substandard service forced the district to alter its educational practices, even requiring students to bus to another location for state testing because it couldn’t accommodate online testing requirements. Commnet’s new fiber service to the district currently allows between 400 Mbps at 1 gig of guaranteed, unlimited internet with an option for further expansion.

The \$5.6 million fiber connectivity project was funded through federal E-rate dollars, the State of Arizona and Commnet. Many partners helped to make the effort become a reality. As part of the build, Commnet funded and installed additional fiber that will be leveraged to bring fiber internet to the broader community.

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About Commnet Broadband

Commnet Broadband, an affiliate of ATN International, Inc. (NASDAQ: ATNI), enables or directly delivers high-quality broadband communications services to Tribal communities and rural America, driving digital inclusions and providing access to education, work, healthcare,



safety, entertainment and community connectivity. For more information, visit www.commnetbroadband.com.

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