

Town eyes wireless network Experience key in director selection

BY JENNIFER FAIR
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Downtown Economic Development Corporation say wireless Internet access downtown could be key to area revitalization.

The corporation took a first step last week in developing plans that eventually could lead to a fixed network downtown — an idea first discussed in November by the corporation and in February by Student Body President-elect Seth Dearmin.

The corporation's interim executive director, Nick Didow, suggested at the corporation's Feb. 23 meeting that a large subcommittee pursue the initiative. But members want more information before making a final decision.

"The board decided what we really needed was to have Nick look into costs and technology before we would consider forming a subcommittee," said Chairwoman Andrea Rohrbacher.

She said corporation members will receive a report on technology needs, estimated costs and a similar program already launched in Carrboro.

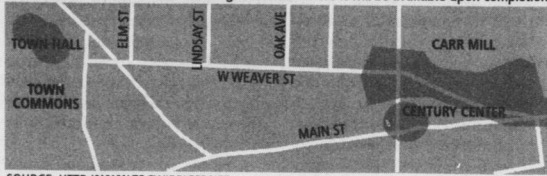
Carrboro's wireless access system is expected to be completed within the next two months. The town now has about 25 access points throughout downtown.

"You'll be able to walk down any major street and be able to get wireless on your device," said Andy Vogel, Carrboro's information and technology manager. "We're just kind of filling in the dead spots."

Plans are for the network to

WIRELESS IN CARRBORO

The town of Carrboro decided in September to stretch its wireless network across the entire downtown area. The shaded regions show where it will be available upon completion.



SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.TOCWIRELESS.NET

DTH/MARY JANE KATZ

span from Town Hall to the Carr Mill Mall and Main Street area.

Didow will present his findings on a potential network in Chapel Hill to the corporation March 9.

Rohrbacher said wireless access will help promote the downtown economy and make it easier for people with wireless access on their laptops to work off-site.

"We're hoping it's a tool to bring more people downtown," she said.

Dearmin, who included working with the town on a wireless initiative in his platform for student body president, said the project has a lot of appeal to students.

"It's easier for them to check e-mail while on Main Street," he said. "It has the potential to attract more students if they know they can sit down with a cup of coffee or a sandwich."

Wireless access now is available at such Franklin Street locations as Woody's Tar Heel Tavern & Grill, Starbucks and Caribou Coffee.

Dearmin has not spoken directly with corporation members about collaboration on the project, but he said his focus is shifting back to his

platform now that applications for his administration are available.

"We'd be glad to work with (Dearmin)," Rohrbacher said, adding that the interaction will depend on Didow's forthcoming information.

Chapel Hill resident Will Raymond, who attended the corporation's meeting last week, said he wants the town to expand coverage into the Northside neighborhood as well as to the downtown area.

"WiFi is a great low-cost way to handle the digital divide," Raymond said of the large wireless provider. "Whether you're a \$50,000 executive or a \$15,000 janitor at UNC, you can all be connected."

Raymond said the corporation should try to take advantage of the potential to link the network with the fiber optics that the town is implementing at stop lights.

"The basic idea is they're putting in this infrastructure that our taxpayers are paying for and can get double use out of that," he said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BY SPENCER GIPPLE
STAFF WRITER

As Chapel Hill looks for ways to improve its economic vitality, the Downtown Economic Development Corporation is taking the next step in finding a permanent leader.

Tuesday was the deadline to apply for the corporation's executive director position. As of 4:30 p.m., corporation Chairwoman Andrea Rohrbacher said, the group had received 54 applications.

Nick Didow, a University business professor, has been the group's interim executive director since August. He said the town will accomplish more once the corporation hires a full-time staff.

"I'm the only staff the corporation has right now," he said. "In order to accomplish its mission, it has to hire staff to put together some programs and proposals."

The town convened the corporation in July to represent the fused interests of the town, University and downtown private sector.

Anita Badrock, vice president of Smither and Associates Inc. — a Chapel Hill firm hired by the corporation to aid the executive director search — said her group is looking

for a number of specific characteristics in potential candidates.

"The person selected will be very focused," she said. "He or she will be living and breathing downtown and will bring to fruition the vision stakeholders have of what the downtown community should be."

Phyllis Owens, executive vice president of the Fayetteville Area Economic Development Corporation, has 15 years of experience as a leader of similar downtown development groups.

"I focus on industrial recruitments," she said. "I take calls from clients, keep our story fresh and try to keep our information out there."

Owens has been with the Fayetteville group for a year.

Kelly Pipes has served as director of the Wilkes County Economic Development Corporation for the past five years.

"We bring businesses to the community and serve as a liaison between the local government and community," he said of his corporation. "The most important thing is for us to try to improve the quality of life for our county residents."

Pipes said he previously served as the manager of Yancy County,

experience that helped him land his current job.

Rohrbacher said previous experience will be key in selecting someone for the Chapel Hill corporation's top job, as well as determining his or her salary.

"The person selected can make anywhere from \$70,000 to \$95,000, based on experience," she said the corporation has decided.

Badrock said each member of the search committee will review the applicants and pick some to interview. The group will then meet in closed session to narrow down the group, and the board will collectively make a final decision.

That decision is tentatively scheduled for mid-April.

"The board is going to have a really tough decision because every person that's applied has something great to contribute," Badrock said.

Members of the corporation's subcommittee in charge of the search could start viewing applications as soon as Thursday. Rohrbacher said there is also a chance that late applications still might be reviewed.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Philip J. Anderson

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ACROSS

- 1 Doorway sides
- 6 Dutch cheese
- 10 Newirth of "Chicago"
- 14 Wickertwork willow
- 15 Astronauts' grp.
- 16 Curvy molding
- 17 Lion
- 20 Actor Morales
- 21 Singer McCann
- 22 Dispatch
- 23 At one's elbow
- 25 Total
- 26 Dog
- 33 Brain sections
- 34 Family man
- 35 Dawn Chong
- 36 Hebrew month
- 37 Palm leaf
- 39 Enthusiastic opinion
- 40 N.Y. opera house
- 41 Ship's pole
- 42 Small specks
- 43 Eagle
- 47 Wee crawler
- 48 Focal points
- 49 Sufficient
- 52 "The Virginian" writer Wister

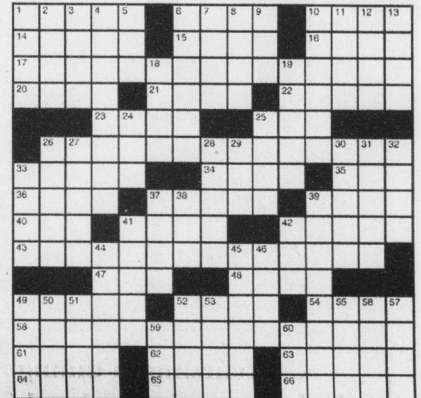
- 65 Male turkeys
- 66 Villainous look

DOWN

- 1 Bit of humor
- 2 Flea market caveat
- 3 Ancient Greek weight
- 4 Tyro
- 5 Full-house sign
- 6 Whole
- 7 Willie Wonka's creator
- 8 On the ocean
- 9 Music abbr.
- 10 Ajax competitor
- 11 Chicken products
- 12 Pants support
- 13 Extra-wide shoe size
- 18 Love handles
- 19 "Star Trek" character
- 24 Serpentine curve
- 25 Nob Hill cops: abbr.
- 26 Computer communicator

- 27 Lessen
- 28 Sees
- 29 Light brown
- 30 Muse of verse
- 31 Orange variety
- 32 Sandra and Ruby
- 33 Tibetan monk
- 37 Bit of info
- 38 Pretoria's nation: abbr.
- 39 Mr. Crusoe
- 41 "Rebel Without a Cause" co-star
- 42 CCX x X
- 44 Kiner and Ellison

- 45 Visits dreamland
- 46 Distant, once
- 49 Inquires
- 50 Units of conductance
- 51 Ancient Brit
- 52 Bologna eight
- 53 "For ___ the Bell Tolls"
- 55 -majesty
- 56 Canadian tribe
- 57 Lead player
- 59 Obese
- 60 Interrogative sounds



Administrative pay up at colleges

BY VICTORIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Salaries for university leaders increased last year, according to a nationwide survey released in February, and the growth has some experts concerned that college campuses are moving toward corporate practices.

The College and University Professional Association for Human Resources reported administrative salary increases of 3.2 percent at public universities.

The report reviewed the salaries of 175 administrators from 1,387 institutions, including UNC.

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, said the nationwide trend in salary increase is partly attributable to attempts to attract people to leadership positions. "When you hire administration, often the issue is having to pay them a salary at what the national market commands," she said.

But John Curtis, director of research for the American Association of University Professors, said his organization has noticed the disparity between administrators' salaries and faculties' salaries

has grown during the last 10 years.

He said that to benefit institutions, there should not be an increase in administrators' pay, especially for presidents. "Our concern is not so much specific dollar amount, but that presidents' salaries are out of sync with what faculty are earning."

UNC Provost Robert Shelton acknowledged that administrators have had a pay increase but said the University is committed to keeping administrative salaries in line with faculty salaries.

Shelton also said raises are only given when enough money is allotted from the N.C. General Assembly, and even then they are small.

The reason why the raises are so small, he said, is that UNC tries to keep salaries in the 80th percentile when compared with the salaries of administrators nationwide. "My feeling is the North Carolina system has been cautious on salaries, and that's a good thing," he said.

But the tendency to offer high salaries to hire new administrators also raises concern that institutions are being turned into corporations, said Roger Bowen, general secretary for the American Association

of University Professors.

Bowen said administrators should not demand high salaries because it creates tension within the university and sends the public a negative message. He questioned whether administrators seeking high pay are going into the job for the right reasons.

"We shouldn't let a so-called market be the sole guide," he said.

Some experts said high salaries, combined with a focus on private fund raising, creates a corporate environment in academia.

"(Universities) become extra-connected to the private donor community," Wegner said, adding that private donors expect a more businesslike atmosphere.

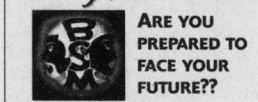
Curtis said he thinks more universities should follow the UNC's lead in keeping administrators' salaries in range of faculty salaries.

"Administrators should be academic leaders, and therefore, their salaries should be in line with the university's operating for public good."

Contact the State & National Editor at stndesk@unc.edu.

The Black Student Movement

PRESENTS
Facing Your Future



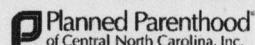
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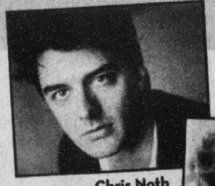
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