Coastline Community College Offers Education Opportunities to Remote Classroom Facilities with a D-Link Business Class Wireless Access Point Solution

High-quality, Enterprise-level D-Link Access Points enable Coastline Community College to Teach the Latest Techniques in Wireless Security and Network Communications.

Challenge: Coastline Community College has an international reputation as one of the nation’s most innovative institutions. Founded in 1976, Coastline delivers education through technology and a comprehensive curriculum. Since many of the enrolled students are working professionals, Coastline does not have a traditional campus environment. Instead, instruction is offered in nine different cities within the college service area, at approximately fifty sites close to students’ homes and workplaces. These teaching sites include banks, senior centers, high schools, and office buildings. In addition to these sites, the College has main area learning centers based in Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, and Westminster, all located in Southern California. In 1997, the College opened a new center in Garden Grove that features the latest in technology, specialized labs, and large lecture facilities.

Coastline was in need of high-quality, enterprise-level access points for students to learn the latest techniques in wireless security and network communications. With the increased cost of running the school and a subsequent rise in materials fees, offering courses in the latest cutting-edge technologies seemed difficult. David Jackson, a respected computing instructor who has been teaching networking and Information Technology (IT) classes at Coastline for nearly nine years, described the frustration he experienced when trying to access quality equipment for his students: “We had contacted a lot of networking companies but our request was either completely ignored or flatly rejected,” said Professor Jackson. “D-Link is the only networking company that was willing to come through for the college and for the community.”

Solution: The D-Link technical team worked closely with Professor Jackson to determine how to best help Coastline Community College. The team determined that eight D-Link AirPlus Xtreme G Wireless Access Points (DWL-2100AP) would effectively handle the network connectivity needs of the college for networking courses.

The D-Link AirPlus Xtreme G DWL-2100AP is a high-speed 2.4GHz 802.11g wireless access point that delivers excellent and consistent data rate throughput through the use of new wireless technologies such as Packet Bursting, Fast Frame, Compression & Encryption, and Turbo mode. The DWL-2100AP features WDS (Wireless Distribution System) that can be configured to perform in any one of five modes: a Wireless Access Point, a Point-to-Point (PnP) bridge with another DWL-2100AP, a Point-to-Multipoint (PtMP) bridge, a Repeater for range extension, or as a Wireless Client.

With the robust feature set of the D-Link DWL-2100AP Coastline Community College is able to now offer expanded learning opportunities. The college can now offer their students reliable platforms for studying, testing, and evaluating advanced wireless features such as 802.1x authentication, wireless bridging, and WiFi Protected Access (WPA) security. In addition, Coastline Community College now has an advanced platform allowing them to offer educational courses needed for today’s popular industry recognized certification programs in wireless LAN technology.
Conclusion: “As a result of D-Link’s contribution, Coastline Community College can continue to offer a first-rate education to talented people of all backgrounds and financial means. Professor Jackson notes that since D-Link has provided high-end networking equipment classes have been filled to over-capacity, quite an accomplishment considering that the school had no budget for advertising (students learned about the hands-on networking training courses through word-of mouth and flyers). “D-Link is a tremendous asset to the community,” said Professor Jackson. “By offering high-end equipment, D-Link is helping students and working professionals to make informed decisions based on what works in a real-world office environment.” “In addition, the Wireless Access Points provided by D-Link have removable antennas, which is a God-send for us,” added Jackson. “Through D-Link’s access points the class is able to test different antenna types in addition to learning important aspects about network security.”

“We are pleased to be helping local organizations such as Coastline Community College that are dedicated to enriching students’ lives through teaching and research,” said Steven Joe, president and CEO of D-Link.

Since Coastline Community College’s mission is to provide superior instructional programs and services that meet the needs of students in diverse local and global populations, D-Link recognized the value in contributing to the college. D-Link remains committed to helping schools and community-based organizations that afford opportunities for personal growth and professional success.

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