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THE WISCONSIN FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES, INC.

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JUN 21 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC DKT NO. 98-141

- BENEFICIARIES:
- ALVERNO COLLEGE
- BELOIT COLLEGE
- CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY
- CARROLL COLLEGE
- CARTHAGE COLLEGE
- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN
- EDGEWOOD COLLEGE
- LAKELAND COLLEGE
- LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
- MARIAN COLLEGE
- MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
- MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN
- MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
- MOUNT MARY COLLEGE
- MOUNT SENARIO COLLEGE
- NORTHLAND COLLEGE
- RIPON COLLEGE
- ST. NORBERT COLLEGE
- SILVER LAKE COLLEGE
- VITERBO COLLEGE
- WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

March 3, 1999

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket #98-141

Dear Chairman Kennard,

As the merger of Ameritech and Southern Bell is considered, I wanted to document what Ameritech has meant to the private colleges of Wisconsin, and how a merged firm could mean even more.

Key members of the Ameritech administration in Milwaukee have served on our board, and with a commitment to keep a headquarters here, we couldn't be more supportive of this merger. Ameritech has contributed more than \$1.2 million in funds to the private colleges of Wisconsin through the Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges, Inc., and Edward Whitacre, chairman of SBC, has committed to "continue Ameritech's historic level of charitable contributions and community activities."

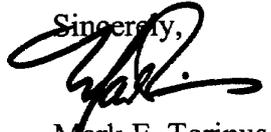
For the past three years, specifically, Ameritech has funded Wisconsin private colleges with more than \$500,000 to allow professors to learn how to best use technology in teaching. More than 550 professors have been trained through the Ameritech Faculty Development Technology Program in Wisconsin alone.

This year, four of the Ameritech states have agreed to work together to enhance the quality and efficiency of the training for faculty. The four states, through a faculty planning committee, have also begun to explore other ways the private colleges can work together to enhance the use of technology and save money for all colleges in all four states.

Michael Kuhlin, Senior Director of the Ameritech Foundation, has assured us that the merged firms' commitment to philanthropy will be even stronger. He has encouraged us to apply for more funds to foster four-state cooperation and efficiency. We praise this commitment as proof of the value of merger.

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We can envision the day when all the private colleges of the states served by Ameritech and SBC will work together to create new paradigms in use of technology in education, all because of the philanthropic commitment of these responsible corporate citizens.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Torinus
President

cc: Commissioners:
Harold Furtchgott-Roth
Susan Ness
Michael Powell
Gloria Tristani

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