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**Electronic Comment File Submission to the
Federal Communications Commission**

In the Matter of **WT Docket No. 08-94**
Applications of Sprint Nextel Corp. and Clearwire Corporation for
Consent to Transfer Control of 2.5 GHz Licenses and Authorizations

Gallaudet University urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve the transfer applications filed by Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint) and Clearwire Corporation (Clearwire), which will provide consumers across America with a new, state-of-the-art wireless broadband network using an open-platform, WiMAX technology.

A high-speed wireless network will enable mobile video communications and accessibility technologies such as speech-to-text (aka captioning) and speech-to-sign services (aka video relay services).

Mobile video communications are especially important to deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people who use American Sign Language (ASL). Whereas video phones and video relay services (VRS) have greatly benefited ASL users in the past five years, deaf and hard of hearing people do not enjoy the same benefits of a mobile wireless environment that hearing Americans have with mobile voice networks. Further, deaf and hard of hearing people in Europe have been using video-based communications on their cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) for several years now, and it is time that deaf and hard of hearing Americans have the same opportunities.

Current wireless networks in the United States do not provide sufficient bandwidth for effective communications in sign language. The high-speed network proposed by Sprint-Nextel and Clearwire will provide the needed bandwidth and enable deaf and hard of hearing people to use recently-released mobile video phones any place and any time, rather than being restricted to using the "mobile" video phones within the reaches of a local business, university, or home network.

Similarly, a high-speed wireless network will permit accessibility technologies such as remote captioning and video relay services (VRS) to be provided any place and any time, with mobile devices.

The educational opportunities that will open with a high-speed wireless network are unlimited. Deaf and hard of hearing students who are in rural areas will be able to participate in mobile video communications. Students who are in internship settings will be able to communicate easily, using American Sign Language, with supervisors at the University or students in other internship locations. Distance education for deaf and hard of hearing students will become more interactive and include more visually-rich content with a two-way video network that is available everywhere and at all times.

Mobile video communications will also be useful to the growing numbers of hearing students who are taking American Sign Language courses. ASL is the fourth most-studied language on college campuses (http://www.mla.org/pdf/release11207_ma_feb_update.pdf). The network would also unleash the many millions of Americans who use webcams on computers to have the same freedom and communication with their mobile devices.

An important part of the Sprint-Nextel and ClearWire proposal is that their network will be based on open standards. This approach will enable other companies to create new devices and applications. A high-speed mobile network that supports high-quality two-way video communications will provide equity in communication access for deaf and hard of hearing people. It will enable and encourage new innovations.

The benefits of approving the proposal are significant for all Americans, and especially for those who use a visual language, such as American Sign Language. I hope that the Commission will consider these benefits for deaf and hard of hearing people in the decision concerning WT docket 08-94.

Respectfully submitted,



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Letter Submitted via http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi

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