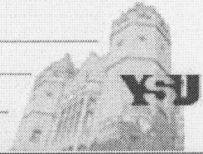




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YSU NEWS

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YSU launches new telecommunications program

Switch to digital TV drives development of new offerings

In response to new federal mandates for digital television, Youngstown State University will launch a new program in telecommunications engineering technology starting in the fall semester.

The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that all television stations must broadcast in digital format by 2007.

Digital TV, which the FCC says could transform television as we now know it, will allow broadcasters to offer television with movie-quality picture and CD-quality sound.

To make the switch to digital, all TV stations will need a new transmitter, antenna and production facilities, according to the FCC website.

"Conversion to digital requires a particular skill set," said Ted Bosela, associate dean of YSU's Rayen College of Engineering and Technology.

"People need to be trained to work with this type of equipment. That's what's driving us to start this program."

The two-year program will be an option under the electrical engineering technology program and will lead to an associate's degree in applied science. Students may continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree in applied science, with a major in electrical engineering technology. Bosela said he expects about 15 people will enroll in the program annually.

Employment opportunities for graduates of the program will be good, according to Bosela, since a lot of television stations are still in the process of changing from analog to digital format.

"I wish such a program had been in place back when I attended YSU," said John Fischer, a 1975 YSU graduate who is now vice president of video projects at Perkins Communications in Youngstown.

The new offering will be a joint venture between YSU's Rayen College of Engineering and Technology and the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

George McCloud, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, thinks the program will lure new students to YSU.

"By combining the resources of both colleges, we will have a unique program that will generate new demand and students for YSU," McCloud said.

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