

February 6, 2007

To the Editor,

The Illinois General Assembly will probably be taking up the issue of cable-TV franchising in this session. I encourage the legislature to support principles which protect local management of public rights of way and maintains our ability to serve the public good through our PEG access channel. Public, Education and Government Access, or PEG, are tools to engage our local communities in democracy, education and cultural enrichment.

Thanks to local franchising, Parkland College has been operating an education access cable-TV channel, since 1994, that reaches over 40-thousand households in Community College District 505.

Through PCTV:

- Parkland College promotes programs of study, community education efforts, and cultural events.
- Parkland College Mass Communication students have an outlet to produce class project work and gain real-world television production experience.
- Parkland College Community Education offers a summer College for Kids course in television production with final project work airing on PCTV.
- Programs like “Classic Arts Showcase” and “The Parkland Challenge High School Quiz Bowl” have proven to be popular and culturally substantive alternatives to commercial television offerings.

Some seeking franchising reform want to reduce or even eliminate PEG channels. The college has spent significant resources equipping a television studio and providing content for our PEG channel. Parkland College seeks to maintain this vital link to the communities of our district.

Sincerely,

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Parkland College Trustee

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