High Definition Cable TV System Upgrade

The Alcorn State University Division of Student Affairs is scheduling an upgrade for the cable TV system to move our current 81 Standard Definition channels to 88 High Definition channels. The new system will include a Channel Guide on CH 6. This upgrade will give us a better picture and a more reliable service.

While we do not anticipate changes to the current channel line-up, channels will be added as capacity increases.

An additional announcement is forthcoming for the date the upgrade will be finalized.

Special thanks to Dr. Felecia M. Nave for providing resources.

CONNECT-ED: Campus Emergency Notification System

Connect-ED is the quickest way to ensure that our campus community receives critical university notifications on safety issues, school closings, weather alerts, and other emergency or police matters. You must register to receive Connect-ED alerts if you are a part of the Alcorn Community.

The Connect-ED service enables campus leaders to schedule, send, and track personalized voice messages to up to six phone numbers per student and staff member and immediately sends messages via four different modes of communication:

- Voice messages to home phones, work phones, cell phones, and even email addresses
- Text messages to cell phones, PDAs, networked digital signage, and other text-based devices
- Text messages to email accounts
- Messages to TTY/TDD receiving devices for the hearing impaired

Notifying the university community immediately is crucial in time-sensitive situations, such as severe weather or campus closures. CITS is requesting that students, faculty, and staff enter their contact information into the Connect-ED database.

Follow the steps below to add your information:

* Click the below link to register for Connect-ED

- Faculty and staff use full email address (to register)
- Students use only the name that appears before the @alcorn.edu (to register)
Good News

Laundry Card Readers in Burrus and Revels Halls Are Back Up and Operational

The Gold Card is the student’s lifeline for everything from door access, meal plans, book store, concession stands, and laundry access…you name it.

CITS worked diligently with the Department of Residence Life to purchase and install the new Laundry Card Readers in Burrus Hall and Revels Hall.

A digital balance is stored on students’ Gold Card with the current laundry card system. You can start laundry machines simply by presenting the laundry card to the card reader. The reader debits the balance and starts the machine.

Note: There aren’t enough workers to process, move, sell and deliver all the goods coming into US ports across the country fast enough. A national shortage of truck drivers is also making it harder for goods to quickly reach warehouses, which themselves are understaffed. Ordering supplies and equipment needed to keep the laundry readers working is difficult for everyday “wear and tear,” but we can help our own situation by taking care of our property.

CITS strives to create a connected campus experience for students, but we need your support.

If you see something, say something. We need your assistance to keep down vandalism in our laundry rooms. Ripping readers out of the wall is not conducive to the environment we strive to create on campus.

More updates will come on redesigning the laundry area to include new state-of-the-art equipment, features, and mobile app accessibility.
Automated Laptop Dispensing Kiosks

Alcorn State University is excited to announce that we now have several automated laptop dispensing kiosks where you can use your Alcorn State University Gold Card to check out a laptop.

The kiosks will help students borrow a computer for a quick class assignment with the new free laptop vending machine.

We are removing every obstacle we can to help our students succeed. If you don’t have a computer—we’ve helped eliminate that problem. Getting a laptop is quick and easy! You can find kiosks around each campus.

The automated laptop dispensing kiosks not only securely store, recharge and wipe clean computing devices but make managing a self-contained automated checkout program or supplementing a manual program easy and empowering for all involved.

Need a laptop for an extended length of time?

A valid Gold Card is all you need to reserve a laptop for up to 12 weeks.

Long-term laptop loaners will be available in Spring 2022.
The University library locations will house the loaner laptops and be responsible for the checkout process.

Laptop storage carts are being ordered to house the laptops. The storage carts feature outlets for charging inside, locking doors for security, and a non-skid work surface that allows the library staff to store laptops in the cart.

Beta sites were set up in December, with full implementation scheduled for January 2022.

For further information, please contact CITS at 601-877-2487.
Top Tips to Securely Using Social Media

Overview
Social media sites, such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, are excellent resources, allowing you to meet, interact, and share with people around the world. However, with all this power comes risks—not just for you but also for your family, friends, and employer. This newsletter covers the critical steps to making the most of social media securely and safely.

Posting
Be careful and think before posting. Anything you post will most likely become public at some point, impacting your reputation and future, including where you can go to school or the jobs you can get. If you don’t want your family or boss to see it, you probably shouldn’t post it. Also, be aware of what others are posting about you. You may have to ask others to remove what they share about you.

Privacy
Almost all social media sites have robust privacy options. Enable them when possible. For example, does the site really need to be able to track your location? In addition, privacy options can be confusing and change often. Make it a habit to check and confirm they are working as you expect them to.

Passphrase
Secure your social media account with a long, unique passphrase. A passphrase is a password made up of multiple words, making it easy for you to type and remember but hard for cyber attackers to guess.

Lock Down Your Account
Even better, enable two-factor authentication on all of your accounts. This adds a one-time code with your password when logging in to your account. This is very simple and is one of the most powerful ways to secure your account.

Information courtesy of Jessica Barker, a world leader in the human side of cyber security

Spring is in the Air!
Upgrading Residence Hall Computer Labs Is on the Way
The convenience of living on campus provides students easy access to numerous campus resources, including faculty and academic advisors, library, and computer labs. The Center for Information Technology Services is working hard to improve students’ technology experiences on campus, including improving residence hall Wi-Fi services and upgrading all residence hall computer labs and printers.

Each lab will be equipped with new Windows-based computers installed with current software and a printer with scanning features. Our current staff of student employees will assist with maintaining the labs located across campus.

At CITS, we understand the computing needs of the resident students and are making strides in technology services that enhance student learning and support student success.