

# Fiber connectivity amplifies a college's global presence and innovation

Fiber provides Centre College with the agility to scale bandwidth to host campus events, along with the bandwidth capacity for entertainment, learning, business and study-abroad programs. The college is able to operate a world-class campus, thanks to the affordability of the fiber connectivity.

Founded in Danville, KY in 1819, Centre College is one of America's most prestigious liberal arts colleges. It maintains an extraordinary retention rate: Over 80 percent of students who come the first year go on to graduate the fourth year. It also has a top study-abroad program, enjoying participation from 85 percent of the college's 1,400 students.

Clearly, Centre College is doing something very right—and exciting. According to Shane Wilson, Senior Systems and Networks Coordinator,

*“Internet and cloud services have become crucial for day-to-day operations. It's good to have the peace of mind knowing that we have Spectrum Enterprise [providing] reliable service—at a good price.”*

—Shane Wilson

Internet connectivity is crucial in creating a highly engaging student experience and helping the college seize major opportunities. In fact, it was one of these opportunities that first brought Centre College together with Spectrum Enterprise.

### Scaling up quickly to host nationally televised debates

In 2011, Centre won the opportunity to host the vice presidential candidates' debate. The clock immediately started ticking on the need to add bandwidth and diversify connectivity to ensure fail-safe redundancy. Centre's IT team approached other telecom providers who declined because of the urgent timing. Spectrum Enterprise accepted the challenge, and has been part of Centre's connectivity solution ever since.

Today, this solution includes a 1 Gbps dedicated Fiber Internet Access (FIA) circuit. “Our solutions come in from different areas of campus,” Wilson explains. “So if there's a break or a cut, it doesn't take everything down.”



Shane Wilson, Senior Systems and Networks Coordinator, Centre College  
Client since 2008

#### Client profile



#### Company

Centre College

#### Industry

Liberal Arts College with a Large Study-Abroad Program

#### Services

Gigabit Fiber Internet Access

### Ease of adding bandwidth and additional services

Wilson says that the ease of provisioning services is one of the biggest advantages in working with Spectrum Enterprise—especially when campus events and opportunities like the debates arise quickly. He adds, “You have to jump through hoops for so many other providers [while] Spectrum Enterprise is so efficient, and so fast in turning up additional services and additional bandwidth.”

### Access to BYOD for “home quality” entertainment services

With its character as a residential college, Centre’s connectivity must support a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment, which includes far more than just research and general systems like email. Students expect access to the entertainment services they enjoy at home, like Netflix and Hulu. Plus, Wilson says, the college’s helpdesk team has to support just about every device imaginable, from Apple and Android laptops to game consoles and Internet-enabled TV sets.

To meet the demand on bandwidth created by BYOD, Wilson emphasizes that “it’s absolutely necessary for our Internet connections to be reliable... Spectrum Enterprise supports that wonderfully and gives us good bandwidth for [all] types of devices.”

*“The service has been wonderful: Very knowledgeable tech staff, and the communication is really good between us and the Spectrum Enterprise sales team.”*

—Shane Wilson



Thanks to the affordable fiber connectivity provided by Spectrum Enterprise, Centre College provides a highly collaborative learning environment campus-wide and world-wide.

### Web conferencing links students and faculty to new resources

Both students and faculty increasingly use web conferencing to expand their research and scholarship opportunities by connecting with other institutions. Web conferencing is also critical in supporting Centre’s students studying around the globe.

Centre’s study-abroad program repeatedly ranks number one among U.S. colleges, with an exceptionally high percentage of students participating in programs in China, Europe and South America. Centre College also maintains campuses in France and Mexico. Wilson notes what an achievement it is for a small school like Centre to offer so many study-abroad programs and, through web conferencing, to enable students in classrooms on the Kentucky campus to interact in real time with students abroad.

### The capacity and reliability to evolve into the cloud and 4K video

As the value of connectivity continues to grow, so does the need for reliability. Wilson explains that in addition to web conferencing and collaborative learning, the college relies increasingly on cloud services, electronic marketing materials and its website: “It has a direct business impact for our campus if our connections are down.” The Spectrum

Enterprise solution, however, continues to provide reliability that gives Wilson confidence in continuing to innovate.

He’s looking toward 4K high-resolution video, anticipating that students will soon demand connectivity for services such as Sling TV and PlayStation™ Vue.

“We see all that coming pretty quickly, just [as we] see those bandwidth needs increasing more and more. So, we really need Spectrum Enterprise to [maintain] a resilient, redundant connection. And they provide that nicely!”

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#### About Spectrum Enterprise

Spectrum Enterprise, a part of Charter Communications, is a national provider of scalable, fiber-based technology solutions serving many of America’s largest businesses and communications service providers. The broad Spectrum Enterprise portfolio includes networking and managed services solutions, including Internet access, Ethernet and Managed Network Services, Voice and TV solutions, Managed Application, Cloud Infrastructure and Managed Hosting Services. Our industry-leading team of experts works closely with clients to achieve greater business success by providing solutions designed to meet their evolving needs. For more information, visit [enterprise.spectrum.com](http://enterprise.spectrum.com).

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