

Thomas College Partnerships Bring Central Maine
to the World

Waterville, Maine---March 12, 1996--- Maine's Secretary of State's Office has had 3400 requests for information on their World Wide Web site within the past

three weeks, thanks to Thomas College. A small, private business college in Waterville, Maine, Thomas is providing the ability for business and economic organizations to market themselves on the World Wide Web. The Information Services staff at the College creates their web sites, maintains the information,

and links their sites to other sites in Central Maine. Besides the Secretary of

State's Office, the College has created and maintains sites for the Mid-State

Economic Development Corporation (490 requests in the past three weeks) and the Maine Chamber & Business Alliance (430 requests). By providing this service, the College hopes to strengthen the economic development of the central Maine region.

At the same time that the College was creating a presence for these organizations on the Web, it was helping them gain access to the Internet. The

College entered into a partnership with a local Internet access provider, The Maine Internetworks, which currently has over 100 modems and 4 dial-in local access areas. The Maine Internetworks houses its point of presence in the College's computer center.

A high speed Central Maine Wide Area Network (WAN) is now being developed to allow these organizations to communicate with each other. Thomas College, along with The Maine Internetworks, State Cable TV, and the Waterville School System, has developed a WAN with 10 Megabit, high-speed coaxial cable lines. This network allows information to be transmitted at ethernet speeds among anyone connected within the cable TV area. This is one of the first networks of its kind in the country. The technology will allow

educators to share resources, to video conference, and to send and receive information over 300 times faster than a standard 28.8K modem. Thomas College can be found at <http://www.thomas.edu/>

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