



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
 1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20235

**press
message**

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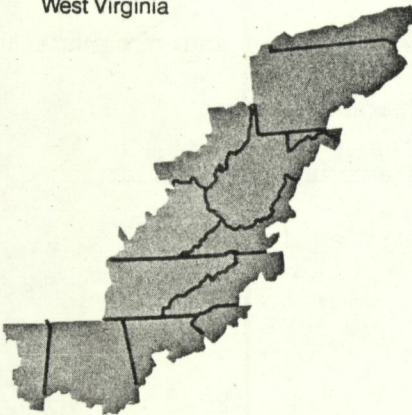
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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Appalachian Regional Commission, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, will inaugurate on February 11th a program that for the first time in U. S. history will demonstrate how public services can be delivered to remote rural areas in Appalachia via NASA communication satellites. Programs in health, education, local government services and services directed toward business and industry will be beamed throughout the 13-state area over the next four years.

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia

This special Satellite Inaugural Conference on the new and expanded Appalachian Education Satellite Program (AESP) will be held on Friday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m., EST. The format of the conference will include two panels: one will be located here in Washington in the Senate Caucus Room, Old Senate Office Building (Room 318), and will be moderated by Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia; and the other in Lexington at the University of Kentucky Television Studio, Taylor Education Building (the site of the telecast).

The Senate hook-up will provide an opportunity for the congressional leaders of the Region to become acquainted with the actual mechanics of this region-wide demonstration project. Each representative will be able to ask questions that will be transmitted via a satellite telecommunications network to various remote sites throughout the Region (See page 3).



This expanded public service satellite program for Appalachia follows an existing and highly successful experiment conducted during 1974 using NASA's ATS-6 satellite which provided for local involvement in the design and production of courses for teachers in reading and career education. The University of Kentucky as an AESP resource center developed programs that were televised via the satellite. The participants received credit from twenty colleges and universities throughout the Region. Over 1200 teachers participated and the cost for this initial experiment was found to be relatively low, and comparable to existing graduate courses given at these institutions.

During the last year, the ARC, with assistance from the National Institute of Education, conducted a needs assessment on the potential use of satellites in rural areas of Appalachia. Local meetings were held throughout the Region to identify specific needs that could be addressed with this type of technology. From these meetings, a new four-year operational plan was developed that calls for the delivery of courses to a wide range of local community participants, professional and non-professional. Current plans include programs for parents and teachers of handicapped children, continuing education for nurses and paraprofessionals, adult learning programs, local government and business planning seminars, graduate courses in metric, reading and career education, emergency medical training programs and programs for the aged. Over 75 additional communities have petitioned ARC to participate in this program, with the majority of these communities willing to commit local funds to finance the cost of the necessary equipment.