

D-20 launches 20-TV this month

PROGRAM EMPHASIZES REAL-LIFE APPLICATION OF BROADCASTING CURRICULUM

By Dan Barker

It won't be long before 20-TV is on the air.

The Academy School District 20 Board of Education approved up to \$155,000 at its Thursday, Sept. 7, meeting to get cable Channel 19 up and running.

It will be under the expert care of Program Manager Ryan Cameron, a six-time state Emmy winner. Cameron has students from Air Academy High School who went on to jobs in all the broadcast news outlets in Colorado except for two Denver stations, said Superintendent Ken Vedra.

"We've got the best instructor available," he said.

Cameron has even stayed behind while his wife went to Rochester, N.Y. as a physician in training, Vedra said.

"His heart and soul is in this," Vedra added.

In an earlier interview, Cameron said he hopes to get started next week, but it will take time to build up the programming. That will consist of student productions and some of those will go to help the district with its own needs.

For instance, the district's staff development department will co-produce professional development materials for use by district teachers and staff; and teachers can showcase what they and their students are doing, Cameron said.

However, the main emphasis is to offer the equivalent of 200- and 300-level college classes in a studio in the district administration building for students who have already completed video production courses at their home schools. Cameron has taught at Air Academy for

four years and wants to create advanced classes in conjunction with Pikes Peak Community College, and students may get credit for completion, he said.

The courses will get past theory, giving students real clients and broadcasting experience using various delivery systems, essentially completing the lab portion of video courses, Cameron said.

Approval did not come without some concern:

Board Vice President Ann Elrod said she was hesitant to approve so much money without at least seeing what the curriculum covers and the program's goals and objectives.

Some cost is offset following a \$10,000 grant from the Southern Colorado Education Television Consortium for broadcasting, he said.

She also noted that the University of Colorado at

Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Community College and a school called AVP already offer advanced courses, but she did vote for the project.

Cameron promised to get materials and goals to the board. He said his classes would meet and exceed anything other schools offered. While PPCC offers more advanced courses, they are held at a southern campus and students have to enroll at UCCS to get into classes. AVP only offers 100- and 200-level classes, he said.

The district has shared Channel 19 with School District 2, but now has control of it in the administration building. The costs for the program and its equipment, such as a satellite dish, studio and control room, will not exceed \$155,000, Cameron said.