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UIS Campus Housing to Disconnect Phone Service

Almost everyone has a cell phone nowadays, especially college students.

That's why the University of Illinois at Springfield is choosing to eliminate land line service in its student housing.

UIS student Diamond Ross says she uses the phone a few times a week to talk to her parents.

"And I know a lot of students don't use it, but for those that do use it and i know that all of us here do, it's nice to have," Ross said.

Ross is one of only a few students on campus using the service and Housing Director John Ringle says starting over the Christmas break land line service will be disconnected.

"So by cutting off that particular monthly expense for the 1100 residents that are living on campus, that comes out to a pretty significant savings on the course of a fiscal year," Ringle said.

Ringle says the jack will remain, but if you plug a phone into it, you won't have service unless you request it.

"Students can plug a phone in, let us know they want to activate it as a line and then we will charge them accordingly next fiscal year. For those that still want it this fiscal year, we think because it's mid-year, we should work with them and give them the opportunity to keep it if they want to," Ringle said.

Ringle says it will be a savings of about \$125,000 a year. Ringle says that savings will help pay for carpet replacement and new furniture. But the spider webs on phone across campus tell the story that students just aren't using them.

"I've never met anyone who uses a land line phone in their room or in their house so it's kind of a waste of money for housing I believe," UIS Student Erin Wilson said.

"You want to be able to get a hold of someone on the go, you don't want to be always tied down to a single land line phone inside your room," UIS Student David Wise said.

"Everybody that i associate with has a cell phone and that's their prime source of communication," UIS Student Justin Rose said.

Ringle says there are options for students that don't have cell phones...having a community phone on each floor of the residence hall.

"They could go to their floor lounge, they could go to a laundry mat or use the code blue phones that are in various locations around campus," Ringle said.

The Housing Director says students will start to receive notices in the upcoming weeks about the changes that will occur during the Holiday break.

Ringle says the flagship campus in Champaign-Urbana already eliminated land line service. He says a lot of other schools in Illinois have done the same or are considering it.

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