

## **What equipment do I need to pull down the *NCURATV* digital satellite signal?**

In order to receive, or pull down, a digital non-encrypted satellite signal for viewing at your location, you will need three essential components:

1. A digital satellite antenna (dish)
2. A digital satellite receiver
3. A television or monitor with speakers for viewing

The specifics of each component are unique to each location. First and foremost, a satellite installation professional should be hired (or use an expert from within your department or institution), we will not be able to answer a lot of location specific questions about your site. This professional will survey your location and make the determination of what equipment will be needed in order to effectively receive a digital satellite signal.

A digital satellite antenna capable of receiving a digital, or compressed video/audio signal, from a domestic US satellite will need to be mounted in an area close in proximity to your viewing location but free of any obstructions, such as trees, moving vehicles, etc. The antenna, or dish as it is mostly referred to as, must have a clear view of the south to southwest skies. An antenna that is movable, either electronically or manually is helpful should you need to receive a signal from different satellites. For example, you might receive the *NCURATV* satellite signal from one satellite and to view another program you might need to view another satellite. For each program you would aim the antenna at a different satellite during a program. The digital satellite coordinates are available a week prior to programs for those institutions registered for live viewing.

The digital satellite receiver is the component that takes the received satellite signal and makes it viewable - also known as a decoder. There are many different types of decoders, which can range in price dramatically. Newer decoders are pre-programmed with the latest satellite information, but older ones may be out of date. It is important that you refer to a satellite installation professional to determine what is the best type of receiver for your location and your needs. *The NCURATV program is sent non-encrypted.* Once your receiver is connected to the antenna and the proper satellite is being received, you can select the transponder, or channel, by inputting parameters into the receiver:

- Downlink Frequency
- Downlink Polarity
- Data Rate
- Symbol Rate
- FEC

Each of these parameters will be given to you prior to the start of the live program. Again, it is best to have a satellite installation professional (or in-house specialist) input these parameters into the decoder for proper reception.

If you already have a C Band or KU antenna, you they don't need another one. When going from analog to digital - it all has to do with the receiver. For digital receivers, you can go high end like Tiernan or Tandberg, or you should be able to go with any receiver, which is labeled as FTA, or Free-To-Air. If you Google FTA receiver, a large number of sites come up. When you call for professional support, you want to give the vendor the coordinates and that should help them determine the proper model. If they need a dish too, the same vendor should be able to help, but that is when I strongly suggest they get a professional in there to determine the size of the dish and install properly.

Lastly, a television, or monitor and speakers will be needed to see and hear *NCURATV*. The type and amount of viewing equipment you will need is dependent on your location and the number of people who will be viewing the program. *Please make sure to give this information to your satellite installation professional, as it could be a deciding factor in the type of satellite antenna and receiver you plan on getting.*