Wireless Upgrade Project during the week of October 26th

Wireless is an important service that ITS offers, and we are committed to keeping the infrastructure up-to-date and highly available. We invested this fiscal year in a significant wireless upgrade to condense (22) controllers down to (6) and add an additional 5K ClearPass appliance. Both SAC and SCC have (2) of the new Aruba 7220 controllers that all access points report to. This District office has the (2) 7210 master controllers. In the past the old controllers could only handle up to 64 access points each. At SAC we had (10), which meant that every time a user left a building or area that they would be disconnected from one of the controllers and reconnected to another, which would cause a minimal outage. SCC had the same issue with (7) of the old controllers. ClearPass is used to cache the user's credentials and access control and helped hide the roaming issues between controllers, but not completely.

The new 7220 controllers are capable of handling up to 1000 access points which means that we are able to put an entire site or campus within a single controller so there should be no roaming issues. We installed a second 7220 at SAC and SCC for redundancy and maintenance.

The network team migrated over to the new controllers after hours with no reported down time. They visited each site and interviewed staff and students; they all seemed happy with the wireless the district provides. Jason performed walks at each campus and had no roaming issues on his tablet. The network team also did a quick walk around building H at SCC and have marked a couple new locations for more access points. This is one area that we have received requests to expand our coverage; we'll be expanding our access within this area over the next few months.