Connecting to Wireless on Campus

First, you must make sure that the wireless capabilities of your computer are enabled. Every computer is different but typically there is a network control panel item that includes wireless configuration. Many computers also provide keyboard shortcuts. For example, Dell Latitude D610 notebooks will turn wireless off and on using the Function Key and F2 combination.

In Windows XP, your computer will alert you that it has found wireless networks that you can connect to.

If you click on that message or if you right-click on the wireless icon

You will get a list of available networks or have the option of viewing available networks.

Double click on the network called PUBLIC. This is the name of the wireless network that can be accessed by anyone.
**NOTE:**

*Do not connect to any other networks or connections!* You will not know what you are connecting to and there may be risks connecting to unauthorized networks.

**NOTE:**

You may see the following message when you try to connect to **PUBLIC**.

You see this message because the network is not "encrypted". Encrypted means that the data is scrambled and could not be read if someone tried to eavesdrop on the network. Encrypting the data would require establishing and giving out passwords. Instead, the network is open for anyone to use.

It is safe to use as long as you use follow some basic rules of thumb about computer security.

- Keep your computer up to date. Apply the operating system patches for your computer.
- Have anti-virus software installed and keep it up to date.
- Do not send personal information to web sites that you do not explicitly trust.
- Make sure that any web site you send personal information to uses "**https**" in the address.

**Using the campus wireless network is very much like using your home Internet connection or the wireless connections at Starbucks and elsewhere.**
Once you have made a successful connection, you will see something like the following (for Windows XP users):