

The logo consists of the text 'UC2B' in a blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular area. This white area is enclosed by an orange border. Below the white area, the orange border continues to form a larger frame containing a stylized orange ladder-like structure with three horizontal rungs and two vertical side rails.

UC2B

Urbana-Champaign
Big Broadband -
Above & Below Ground
Letters of Support

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Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

 Pat Quinn
 Governor

 Warren Ribley
 Director

August 11, 2009

 Mr. Michael Smeltzer, Director of Networking
 Board of Trustees, University of Illinois
 1304 W. Springfield Ave., DCL Room 2129 MC-256
 Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mr. Smeltzer:

The State of Illinois recognizes the need to bring world class broadband to every community. As part of this effort, the Illinois Broadband Deployment Program provides grants and loans to expand and strengthen broadband network infrastructure, health information technology, distance learning, and public safety. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is pleased to commit \$3,500,000 for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Project based on the following conditions.

- State funding is contingent upon your federal application being approved and the execution of a grant agreement with DCEO. Please note that this commitment letter does not constitute an enforceable agreement and does not confer any property, equitable or legal rights.
- State funding commitments are valid for projects that are awarded federal funding under the July 1, 2009 Notice of Funding Availability for the Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (application due August 14, 2009).
- State financial commitments will be made based on the information provided in the state application. Any significant change to the project scope of work and budget must be agreed upon by DCEO for the state funding commitment to remain valid.
- Upon the approval of the federal broadband proposal, please contact DCEO regarding a state grant agreement that will include the project scope of work and budget. Please also note that issuance of state matching funds is contingent on the cash available in the Build Illinois Bond Fund and valid state appropriations.

 Internet Address <http://www.commerce.state.il.us>

 620 East Adams Street
 Springfield, Illinois 62701-1615

 217/782-7500
 TDD: 800/785-6055

 James R. Thompson Center
 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 3-400
 Chicago, Illinois 60601-3219
 312/814-7179
 TDD: 800/785-6055

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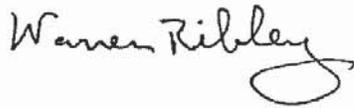
 2309 West Main, Suite 118
 Marion, Illinois 62959-1180

 618/997-4394
 TDD: 800/785-6055

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August 11, 2009

As Illinois' lead economic development agency, DCEO recognizes the potential of this program to support economic growth for the citizens of Illinois and the state's economy. I look forward to seeing your project move forward in Illinois and wish you the best as this project proceeds through the federal application process. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Ribley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Warren Ribley
Director

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Campus Information Technologies
and Educational Services (CITES)
1102 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801



August 11, 2009

Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear BTOP Program Officer:

I write as Chief Information Officer for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to commit the resources of my organization to the UC2B proposal submitted in response to the July 2009 Notice of Funding Availability. With this letter, I affirm that Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES) will contribute \$930,971 to the total cost of the project.

CITES is responsible, among other things, for providing state-of-the-art network capability to the campus. By way of meeting this responsibility we have become heavily invested in regional optical networks, and that has allowed us to play an increasingly active role in providing network access to the community. We are strongly committed to advanced networking as an enabler of research, education, and economic growth. Our proposal to BTOP, if funded, will allow us to partner with the adjacent municipalities to introduce leading-edge technologies to the entire community and to provide unparalleled service to currently underserved districts.

We are excited by this opportunity for many reasons. Working as a local consortium, and supported by federal funds, we can accomplish something for the community that would not be possible under any other circumstances. We have what we believe to be an innovative concept for public partnership in management of telecommunications infrastructure, and we have exceptionally strong social science expertise engaged in designing methods to speed household adoption of broadband technology.

Thank you for offering this opportunity and for considering our proposal.

Sincerely,

Sally Jackson
Chief Information Officer and Associate Provost

telephone 217-333-1637 • fax 217-244-7089
url <http://www.cites.uiuc.edu>

COPY

Passed: August 3, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-07-026R

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE SUBMITTAL OF GRANT REQUESTS IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
FOR THE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN BIG BROADBAND (UC2B) PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is committed to the expansion of broadband capabilities to the community and has demonstrated this commitment through its support of the projects and programs of the C-U Cable and Telecommunications Commission; and

WHEREAS, the United States government is promoting the expansion of broadband capabilities to certain areas through a local grants program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is offering financial support to cover a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded broadband project matching costs; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Project has been formed in a collaborative effort of the City of Urbana, City of Champaign, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to prepare a grant application to pursue development of broadband capabilities, including the construction of infrastructure for the larger community, the installation "fiber to the home" capabilities for underserved areas, and associated public education and training efforts; and

WHEREAS, successful participation in this grant program would benefit the City of Urbana and its residents and the larger community by providing for improved Internet access and capabilities and resulting in improvements in the lives of residents and in the overall economic development potential of the area; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband project is consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Urbana; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council desires to express its support for the grant application to be submitted by the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana, do hereby endorse the "Urbana Champaign Big Broadband Project" and will work to ensure compliance with the grant requirements, including the City's equitable share of the local match required by the granting agencies in the form of both financial commitment and in-kind services in an amount up to but not to exceed \$567,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the granting agencies as evidence of City of Urbana support of the grant applications.

PASSED by the City Council this 3rd day of August,
2009.

Phyllis B. Clark
Phyllis B. Clark, City Clerk
by [Signature] Deputy Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this 4th day of August,
2009.

Laurel Lunt Prussing
Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-08-027R

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN REGARDING THE BIG BROADBAND CONSORTIUM (UC2B)

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana (hereinafter "the City", an Illinois municipal corporation, has a population of 25,000 and is a home rule unit pursuant to Article VII, §6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and 65 ILCS 5/1-1-9; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, §10 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq., allows the City to enter into agreements, with other governmental entities, which provide for mutual cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the City, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, and the City of Champaign, an Illinois municipal corporation, all are committed to the principles of intergovernmental cooperation; and

WHEREAS, , the parties' intention is to seek grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") for the development and construction of a broadband project to serve "underserved" areas within the Urbana-Champaign community as generally described in the "Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Proposal" dated July 21, 2009 ("UC2B Proposal"), and consistent with the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Project Categories as set forth in the "Notice of Funds Availability - Fact Sheet - July, 2009" and the Notice of Funds Availability issued by the Department of Commerce for the for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to develop and operate a coordinated broadband system, it is necessary to establish a system consortium; and

WHEREAS, the mission of such a consortium is to:

1. Build multiple backbone rings identified in the Proposal;
2. Build a Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) infrastructure in the thirty-five (35) "underserved" census block groups identified in the Proposal;
3. Provide fiber and develop options for providing e Internet services to the FTTP customers;
4. Build the lateral fiber connections to schools, fire stations, senior living facilities, community technology centers and other private fiber locations;
5. Activate fiber services to the UC2B partners and investors;
6. Complete the construction of the physical elements of the project by November of 2012;
7. Operate the system developed pursuant to intergovernmental agreement for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to commit itself to the cooperative creation of such a consortium.

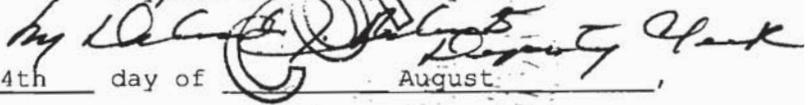
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

That the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign, on behalf of the City of Urbana, the Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for the Creation of the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband System Consortium (attached hereto and fully incorporated herein). Said Agreement shall be in effect immediately upon execution by all parties.

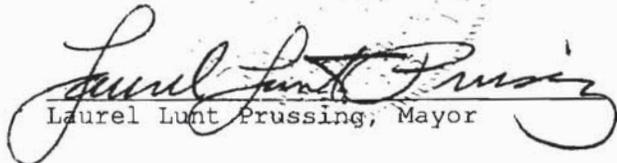
PASSED by the City Council this 3rd day of August,
2009.



Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

by  Deputy Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this 4th day of August,
2009.


 Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

AMENDED**COUNCIL BILL NO. 2009 – 160****A RESOLUTION
APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the United States Government has, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has provided for the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program, which includes funding to deploy broadband infrastructure in underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is offering financial support to cover a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded broadband project matching costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the University of Illinois have taken steps to apply for state and federal funding for projects that would enhance economic opportunities within the City of Champaign and provide a public benefit by providing high-speed connections to underserved areas as well as the possibility of high-speed connections to the rest of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana community is the home of the University of Illinois, which is among the preeminent institutions in the world related to automation and computer progress.

WHEREAS, successful participation in this grant program would benefit the City of Champaign and its residents and the larger community by providing for improved internet access and capabilities and resulting in improvements in the lives of residents and in the overall economic development potential of the area; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Champaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to take such steps to support applications for funding from the United States under the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program through the U.S. Department, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and with the State of Illinois, in conjunction with the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana, as are convenient and necessary.

Section 2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to undertake such activities and execute such documents as are reasonable and necessary to support the application.

Section 3. That the local match requirements of \$920,000 in matching funds and up to 4,000 hours of City staff time is hereby authorized, if the grant applications are selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and accepted by the City of Champaign.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the granting agencies as evidence of City of Champaign support of the grant applications.

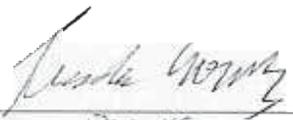
AMENDED
COUNCIL BILL NO. 2009 – 160

PASSED: August 5, 2009

APPROVED: 
Deputy Mayor

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

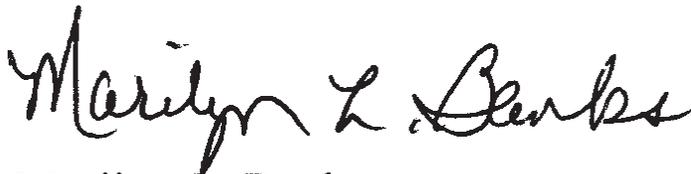

City Attorney

j:\leg\word\intergovernmental relations\big broadband\broadband - cb grant fed & state 8-3-09.rtf

CERTIFICATE

I, Marilyn L. Banks, duly Appointed, fully Qualified, and City Clerk of the City of Champaign, County of Champaign, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Council Bill 2009-160 "A Resolution Approving A Grant Application"

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Champaign, County of Champaign, State of Illinois, this 5th day of August, 2009.



Marilyn L. Banks
City Clerk



**LETTER OF INTENT
FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC
NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Champaign Unit 4 Schools ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The twenty (20) proposed Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$622,556.51 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #4, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$390,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into twenty (20) locations and \$232,556.51 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$31,055.65 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time payment may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$207,518.84 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10, of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

[Signature]
Customer Signature

David W. Tomlinson
Name (printed)

Bureau of Education
Champaign Unit 4 Schools

PRESIDENT
Title

LETTER OF INTENT**FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Champaign Telephone Company ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed seven (7) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$587,697.53 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #4, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #5, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #6, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #7, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$210,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into seven (7) locations and \$377,697.53 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$41,969.75 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time payment may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$195,899.18 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

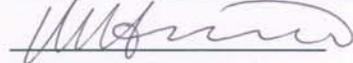
This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 12 day of August 2009.


Customer Signature

Michael Hosier
Name (printed)

Champaign Telephone Company

pres.
Title

LETTER OF INTENT**FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed twelve (12) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$339,102.53 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #6, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$112,500 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into twelve (12) locations and \$226,602.53 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$24,910.25 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$113,034.18 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 11th day of AUGUST 2009.


Customer Signature

Wm L. Volk
Name (printed)

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Title



**URBANA &
CHAMPAIGN
SANITARY
DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 669 • 1100 E. UNIVERSITY AVE. • URBANA, IL 61803-0669 • (217) 367-341

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chris Alix

Diana Lenik

Jerry Lyke

Executive Director

Michael Little

LETTER OF INTENT

FOR INSTALLING FIBER CONECTIONS TO THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase fiber connections to the UC2B network and to then purchase layer two transport services over that network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the fiber infrastructure between Customer locations and UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, recurring maintenance, and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed nine (9) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$120,000.00, which will include the installation and testing of fiber strands between the Customer locations and the nearest splice points on the UC2B network. Of that total one-time charge, the entire \$120,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into nine (9) locations. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$2,400 for the length of the agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be paid in three (3) equal payments of \$40,000 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

To be determined by Customer and UC2B.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the Agreement on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make layer two services available to Customer as soon as the rings and the lateral construction are completed and the fiber is tested.

● Page 2

August 10, 2009

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

Michael R. Little
Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (Customer)

Michael R. Little
Name (printed)

Executive Director
Title

by Kimberly A. Lytle

**LETTER OF INTENT
FOR INSTALLING FIBER CONECTIONS TO THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Lincoln Trail Libraries System ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase fiber connections to the UC2B network and to then purchase Internet services and/or layer-two transport services over that network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the use of fiber infrastructure between Customer location and UC2B's network Ring #1 (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, recurring maintenance and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed one (1) Customer location to be connected to UC2B fiber is itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$30,000.00, which will include the installation and testing of fiber strands between the Customer locations and the nearest splice point on the UC2B network. Of that total one-time charge, the entire \$30,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into one (1) location. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$600.00 for the length of the agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be paid in three (3) equal payments of \$10,000 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

To be determined by Customer and UC2B.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the Agreement on or about October 15, 2010. Should the fiber ring be available before then, UC2B shall make layer two services available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction are completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

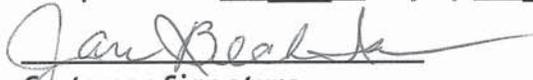
This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 12th day of August 2009.



Customer Signature

Jan Ison

Name (printed)

Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Executive Director

Title



**Urbana School
District 116**

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

Preston L. Williams, Jr. Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools
217-384-3600
Fax 217-337-4973

205 North Race Street
P.O. Box 3039
Urbana • Illinois • 61803-3039

**LETTER OF SUPPORT
FOR THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana School District #116 (the District) has prepared this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B]. The District has been involved with a fiber optic collaborative project with the City of Urbana since April 2008. As part of the City Fiber Project, the District has purchased dark fiber as part of a fiber optic network connecting five school buildings by June 2009, with plans to reach two additional schools and two school administrative facilities by June 2010, and two additional school buildings by 2011.

Fiber connectivity is a critical aspect of the District's Technology Integration Plan. Prior to the City Fiber Project, the schools and classrooms have been served with a 1MB T-1 line that was insufficient to keep up with administrative requirements (e.g. online attendance and grade books). By increasing our connectivity exponentially, students, teachers, and administrators will transform technology integration with curriculum, instruction, assessment, and administrative decision-making. Teachers and students will be able to collaborate with peers and classrooms via video conferencing. The high school will have the opportunity to offer dual credit college level courses taught by college faculty in distance learning situations. The schools will be able to capitalize on their updated computer labs and media centers by publishing audio and video productions to the web. Increased bandwidth will also allow the implementation of a variety of new technology tools, like interactive whiteboards and individual student response systems. In the past year, the District has upgraded computer labs and media centers at all school buildings. Instructional use of technology has grown substantially in the past three years, but the historically low bandwidth has hindered the use of audio, video, and Web 2.0 technologies. The increased bandwidth is allowing automation, integration, and access to a variety of data systems, including the online library catalog, student emails provided by the district, and family access to student attendance and grade records. District administration will be able to take advantage of voice-over-internet phone systems, remote problem solving meetings, and access to student achievement data warehouses.

Urbana School District #116

The district has committed to paying the City of Urbana \$94,175.00 to complete the first phase of District's portion of the City Fiber Project. The District is currently working with the City on the second phase, which will cost the District an additional \$58,900. The District has spent an additional \$145,000 on handholds, network upgrades, and connectivity issues directly associated with upgrading to the fiber optic network. The District views the amount that they have committed to the City Fiber Project as an in-kind contribution to the UC2B project.

The advantage of the UC2B project for the District is that it would dramatically reduce the current fiber implementation timeline, and it would also provide additional integration with community partners, other governmental agencies, as well as parents who are served by the increased access to broadband.

This Letter of Support is intended to be a statement of support and mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible collaboration. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party.

Sincerely,



Donald Owen

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



July 30, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
Director of Networking
Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Mike,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) proposal to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, National Telecommunications Information Administration, Department of Commerce, for stimulus funding to provide broadband access to underserved areas, including more than 15,000 low income households, of Champaign County. Expanded broadband access would be a tremendous asset for the community and will help foster further economic development in the county.

My office, with support from the Office of the Chancellor, will provide annual support of \$60,000 for this project for a period of five years, subject to availability of funds. Our budget decisions are made on an annual basis and availability of funds may change from year to year. The commitment is contingent upon funding being awarded to UC2B project. Further, if the proposal is funded at a level less than the requested amount our contribution will be reduced proportionally.

I wish you and the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Consortium all the best for this important project.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Sonka
Interim Vice Chancellor

telephone 217-333-9525 • fax 217-244-4121

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING
FOR THE CREATION OF THE
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN BIG BROADBAND SYSTEM CONSORTIUM**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered by and between the City of Champaign, a municipal corporation, the City of Urbana, a municipal corporation, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois ("University of Illinois"), all with offices in Champaign County, Illinois, and collectively referred to as "Parties".

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq. enables the parties here to enter into agreements among themselves and provide authority for intergovernmental cooperation; and,

WHEREAS, the parties find it to be in the best interest to the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the University of Illinois to develop and operate a coordinated countywide broadband system; and,

WHEREAS, the parties are committed to the principles of intergovernmental cooperation; and,

WHEREAS, the parties' intention is to seek grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") for the development and construction of a broadband project to serve "underserved" areas within the Champaign-Urbana community as generally described in the "Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Proposal" dated July 21, 2009 ("UC2B Proposal"), attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein ("Proposal"); and consistent with the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Project Categories as set forth in the "Notice of Funds Availability – Fact Sheet – July, 2009", which is attached hereto and the Notice of Funds Availability issued by the Department of Commerce for the for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to develop and operate a coordinated broadband system, it is necessary to establish a system consortium; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of such a consortium is to:

1. Build multiple backbone rings identified in the Proposal;
2. Build a Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) infrastructure in the thirty-five (35) "underserved" census block groups identified in the Proposal;
3. Provide fiber and develop options for providing e Internet services to the FTTP customers;
4. Build the lateral fiber connections to schools, fire stations, senior living facilities, community technology centers and other private fiber locations;
5. Activate fiber services to the UC2B partners and investors;
6. Complete the construction of the physical elements of the project by November of 2012;
7. Operate the system developed pursuant to this Agreement for the benefit of the community.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide generally for structure, operations and joint funding of the consortium; and,

WHEREAS, the parties desire that the system be operated and managed with clear lines of authority for implementing policies to achieve the mission and goals of a consortium as set forth and as articulated from time to time by the parties; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- a) "Consortium" means the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband System Consortium (UC2B), consisting of the members, equipment, personnel, and programs established by and operating pursuant to this Agreement and created to perform the tasks necessary to establish and maintain the broadband system developed under this Agreement.
- b) "Consortium Coordinator" is an employee of the Lead Agency charged by the Lead Agency with the responsibility of administering, supervising, managing and directing the activities, programs, and employees assigned to the Consortium in order to successfully construct, maintain, and operate the system.
- c) "Consortium Staff" means staff of the Lead Agency who are assigned work on Consortium activities under the direction of the Consortium Coordinator.
- d) "Grant Agreements" means those agreements entered into pursuant to the ARRA grants made available under the general terms of the "Notice of Funds Availability – Fact Sheet – July, 2009", attached hereto.
- e) "Lead Agency" means the party designated by the members, pursuant to this Agreement as the party having overall responsibility for Consortium operations on an ongoing basis in accordance with the policies established by the Policy Committee and this Agreement. The parties acknowledge that the "Lead Agency" may be different for different parts of the overall undertaking.
- f) "Members" mean the City of Champaign, Illinois; the City of Urbana, Illinois; and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and such other members who become signatories to the Agreement.
- g) "Party (or Member) in Good Standing" means a member that has not delivered a notice of its intent to withdraw from this Agreement or for which the Policy Committee has not issued a notice of payment default.
- h) "Policy Committee" means the body created by this Agreement to approve the budget for the Consortium, to develop cooperative approaches regarding area wide broadband construction and operation and the concerns of each party, and to perform such other functions as are set forth in this Agreement.
- i) "Program" means the design, construction, and operation of a fiber optic system in the Bradley Avenue Corridor and adjacent areas designed and operated to serve underserved, unserved and vulnerable populations as required by the terms of the ARRA grant.
- j) "System" means a series of fiber optic rings constructed as an open network, and including all fiber connections to the premises constructed, operated by, or controlled by the Consortium, and includes broadband infrastructure, public computer center projects that expand computer center capacity at entities that permit public use of computer assets, and sustainable broadband projects that promote broadband demand.
- k) "Technical Committee" means the body created by this Agreement to provide technical advice and recommendations to the Policy Committee.

SECTION 2. CONSORTIUM CREATED

- a) The parties hereby create the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband System Consortium, an undertaking to operate a communitywide broadband system. The Consortium is created to construct, develop and operate a coordinated system. Service from Consortium and access to Consortium services shall be in accordance with this Agreement.
- b) The Consortium shall be a unit of the Lead Agency, subject to the Lead Agency's policies and procedures, except as otherwise specified in the Agreement. The parties hereby authorize and direct the Lead Agency to operate pursuant to this Agreement, and the Lead Agency hereby agrees to operate pursuant to this Agreement.

SECTION 3. CONSORTIUM MISSION

The mission of the Consortium and its members is to:

- a) Coordinate the construction of the Program and implement connections as required by the Grant Agreements;
- b) Lead development effort for connection to the system;
- c) Establish standards for quality of all connections;
- d) Maintain system records and make such records accessible to all members;
- e) Provide all members access to the system;
- f) Establish and maintain the system, including an operational budget;
- g) Provide system administration and ongoing system support, upgrades, and maintenance for Consortium-controlled assets;
- h) Provide services to members in accord with a work plan approved by the Policy Committee;
- i) Promote use of the system;
- j) Establish operational, administrative, and procedural policy as related to the system operations.

SECTION 4. POLICY COMMITTEE CREATED

The Policy Committee is hereby created in accordance with the following provisions:

a) Membership.

- (i) The Policy Committee shall be comprised of two (2) members to be designated by the Chancellor of the University of Illinois and by each of the Chief Administrative Officers of other members. Additionally, the Chair of the Technical Committee shall be an ex officio voting member of the Policy Committee. The designation shall be made in writing and sent to the

Chancellor and the Chief Administrative Officer of the other members. These shall be voting representatives.

(ii) Additionally, there shall be one (1) non-voting representative of the non-governmental sector, and one (1) non-voting representative of small or specialized governmental users. Both of these non-voting representatives shall be appointed by the Chair and approved by the Policy Committee and shall serve for a three-year term.

b) Voting. In those matters required by this Agreement to be decided by the Policy Committee, unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, the proposition voted upon shall not be considered approved unless it receives an affirmative vote from at least a majority of Policy Board members or such greater percentage vote specified in this Agreement of all voting members of the Policy Committee in good standing.

c) Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting representatives of the Policy Committee members in good standing.

d) Unanimous Vote. In those matters required by this Agreement to be decided by a unanimous vote of the Policy Committee, a proposition shall not be considered adopted unless it receives an affirmative vote from the voting representative of each and every member that is in good standing at the time of the vote.

e) Representative's Substitute. A member's designated representative to the Policy Committee may select a designated voting representative to serve in the designated representative's absence.

f) Regularity of Meetings. The Policy Committee shall meet at least monthly. Other meetings may be called at the request of the Policy Committee Chair or any two (2) of the voting members' representatives on the Policy Committee.

g) Open Meetings Act. The Policy Committee shall adhere to the requirements of the state's Open Meetings Act.

SECTION 5. POLICY COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Policy Committee shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Mission/By-Laws/Committees. The Policy Committee shall have the authority to adopt a mission statement, to enact procedural by-laws governing or directing the activities of the Consortium, provided such mission statement and by-laws do not conflict with the terms of this Agreement, and to create such committees as it deems advisable.

b) Officers. The Policy Committee shall elect a Chair and such officers as it deems advisable from among the voting representatives of the members, said election to occur every two (2) years in June, unless a vacancy sooner occurs, in which case the election shall occur within thirty (30) days after the vacancy.

c) General Responsibilities. The Policy Committee is responsible for approving: policy, priorities, budget, work plan, and technical standards.

d) Budget.

i) The Policy Committee shall, by an affirmative vote of five (5) of the seven (7) voting members:

- 1) annually approve a budget; and
- 2) approve amendments to said budget and expenditures as from time to time deemed necessary by the parties.

ii) The tentative budget for each year shall be submitted by the Lead Agency to the Policy Committee during March of each year.

iii) Unless a new budget is approved by July 1st of any year, the last previously approved budget shall continue from year to year.

iv) The format of the budget shall conform to the format of the Lead Agency's budget unless otherwise directed by vote of the Policy Committee.

e) Funding Formula. The Policy Committee shall annually on or before February 1 of each year, by a unanimous vote, approve the funding formula to determine the parties' share of expenses for Consortium operations, provided, however, that the most recently approved cost-sharing formula shall continue unless amended by the unanimous vote of the parties.

f) Intergovernmental Agreement. The Policy Committee may approve contracts with other governmental entities to provide some or all of Consortium services on a contractual basis.

g) Purchases. The Policy Committee may approve contracts for the purchase of goods or services with units of federal, state and local units of government, private corporations, not-for-profit organizations, partners and individuals. All such purchases shall be made in accordance with the purchasing policies of the Lead Agency.

h) Gifts. The Policy Committee may approve the application for agreements for the receipt by the Consortium of grants, loans, gifts, bequests, funding, in-kind services from federal, state and local units of government, and from public and private sources.

i) Lead Agency. The Policy Committee may designate the Lead Agency by at least a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all voting members, provided that no members shall be designated Lead Agency without its consent, and provided further that, unless the parties agree otherwise, no change in the Lead Agency shall take place without at least one hundred and eighty (180) days' prior notice prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year of the current Lead Agency.

j) Technical Committee. The Policy Committee shall appoint the Technical Committee. Each voting Policy Committee member, except the ex-officio Technical Committee Chair, may appoint up to two (2) persons to the Technical Committee, one of whom shall be designated as the voting representative of the member. The Policy Committee member may authorize an alternate Technical Committee voting representative to vote when its regular member is absent for the Technical Committee meeting.

k) Role of the Technical Committee.

- i) The Technical Committee shall make recommendations to the Policy Committee concerning:

- 1) Hardware requirements;
 - 2) Software requirements;
 - 3) Networking;
 - 4) Standards;
 - 5) Other aspects of the system as requested by the Policy Committee.
- ii) Recommendations of the Technical Committee shall be by majority vote, though consensus of all voting participants is desirable.
- iii) Prior to the purchase of equipment related to the infrastructure, software or hardware or the adoption of technical standards that has the potential to impact members' operations or the overall operation of the infrastructure, the Technical Committee shall seek input and concurrence from all members prior to recommending the purchase, or recommending a technical standard.

l) Fee Policies. The Policy Committee shall have the authority to set fees for usage of the system by a majority vote of voting members.

SECTION 6. LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATED

The initial Lead Agency for the purposes of applying for, receiving and administering any grant under ARRA shall be the University of Illinois.

The parties agree to meet to determine the Lead Agency for the purposes of administering or performing the operational phases of the grant, and ultimately the Lead Agency for the administrative and continuation of the Consortium activities.

SECTION 7. LEAD AGENCY DUTIES

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for, and is hereby empowered to take, all actions to support the overall operation of Consortium and its affairs in accordance with this Agreement and the mission, goals and objectives approved by the Policy Committee. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- a) Employing and supervising all personnel assigned to the Consortium in accordance with the Lead Agency's policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, hiring, firing, disciplining, establishing incentives, benefits, negotiations with unions, and all other employment decisions.
- b) Directing the management and supervision of all employees assigned to Consortium duties in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- c) Incurring and paying, on the behalf of the members and in accordance with this Agreement and Consortium's approved budget, all Consortium expenses.
- d) Entering into all contracts, lease and procurement agreements in accordance with this Agreement, the approved budget, and the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency, including the acquisition of interests in real property as necessary to complete the Project.

- e) Expending funds in accordance with the Consortium's approved budget. Purchasing shall be conducted in accordance with the Consortium approved budget and the purchasing policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- f) Providing all personnel administration, financial support staff, insurance, legal advice and management support and services in accordance with this Agreement and the approved Consortium budget and the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- g) Billing and collecting from each member its share of the cost of Consortium's operations as provided in this Agreement and the approved annual budget and work plan of Consortium.
- h) Overseeing the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures at the Consortium staff level to implement the mission, goals, and work plan of the Consortium.
- i) Developing a proposed annual budget and work plan and administering the approved budget, expenditures, and work plan in accordance with this Agreement.
- j) Providing staff support, including the recording and distribution of minutes for the Consortium Policy and Technical Committee, and bringing policy/technical issues to the committees as appropriate.
- k) Providing necessary office space, furnishings, equipment, hardware, software, and technical support for the Consortium to operate.
- l) Providing generally for the audit, accounting for, receipt, and custody of consortium funds.

The Lead Agency shall be entitled to reimbursement for the costs it incurs in performing these functions, which costs shall be included in Consortium's budget, as amended from time to time in accordance with this Agreement. The formula for cost reimbursement shall be established as part of the funding formula.

SECTION 8. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member shall:

- a) Utilize the system only in accordance with Consortium policies;
- b) Provide two (2) people to serve as active voting representatives on the Policy Committee;
- c) Provide at least one (1) staff person to serve as an active voting representative for the Technical Committee.
- d) Provide information on a regular or as needed basis to the Consortium in order to maintain current information necessary for the Consortium to fulfill its mission;
- e) Pay for Consortium activities in accordance with this Agreement.

SECTION 9. FINANCES

a) Contributions. Each party shall be responsible for contributing to the Consortium budget and expenses based on a cost-sharing formula established from time to time by the members. Any change in the formula may be made by a unanimous vote of the parties' voting representatives on the Policy Committee. The initial approved cost-sharing formula will be attached as Exhibit A" after approval of the Policy Committee as set forth in this subsection. The most recently approved cost-sharing formula shall continue unless amended by unanimous vote of the parties.

b) Records. The Lead Agency shall maintain financial records regarding Consortium operations and finances in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting standards, which records shall be available at the Lead Agency's finance offices for inspection by any of the parties during regular business hours.

c) Invoices. The Lead Agency shall invoice each member on the first day of each quarter for the next quarter's service for its share of Consortium costs based on the approved cost sharing formula

d) Payment. Members shall pay said bills within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice for the same.

e) Audit. Consortium financial records shall be audited on an annual basis by the outside accountant used by the Lead Agency for its other audits and the cost of such audit shall be considered an operating expense of Consortium.

f) University. All commitments by the University are subject to constitutional and statutory restrictions and limitations binding upon the University and to the availability of funds which may be lawfully applied thereto.

g) Fiscal Year. Consortium's fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

SECTION 10. RIGHT-OF-WAY AND REAL PROPERTY ACCESS; CONSTRUCTION

a) Right-of-Way. Construction and the continued existence of the system network will require access to and a continuing presence on, over and under the public right-of-way and real property of the parties. The parties agree as follows with respect to right-of-way and real property usage:

i) Each party hereby agrees that the Consortium shall have a continuing license to utilize the right-of-way and real property of any of the parties in order to effectuate the purposes of this Agreement.

ii) Any use of the right-of-way shall be subject to all ordinances of general application concerning right-of-way, including right-of-way fees for construction, but not including franchise or rental fees which would otherwise require a continuing annual fee for right-of-way usage.

b) Construction. The Consortium shall either enter into contracts with each party to accomplish construction on right-of-way within the party's jurisdiction or the Lead Agency shall, on behalf of the Consortium, contract directly with a third party to accomplish the construction.

1. All construction shall be subject to all federal and state laws applicable, including all laws applicable to the project as a result of receipt of grant funds under the ARRA.

2. After the construction is completed, the conduits and fiber within the conduits, in addition to the license to utilize the right-of-way and real property for the operation of the system, shall be the property of the Consortium.

SECTION 11. TERMINATION BY PARTIES

a) Withdrawal. A party may terminate its participation in this Agreement as of July 1 of any year by giving written notice to each of the other parties. Such notice shall be given prior to December 31 of the year before the desired termination date.

b) Failure to Budget. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, a member may withdraw by giving prior written notice thirty (30) days in advance to each of the other parties indicating its intent to terminate its participation in this Agreement as of the end of the month following the expiration of such thirty (30) days, provided, however, withdrawal under this section can only be invoked if the corporate authorities of such member, or the legislature in the case of the University, have failed or refused to authorize, appropriate or budget the funds necessary to pay such member's share of the costs, as such costs are determined by the Policy Committee pursuant to this Agreement. Each party will utilize its best efforts to appropriate and budget sufficient funds to meet its obligations under this Agreement in full.

c) Default. If a party to this Agreement is in default of its payment obligations, the Policy Committee may so declare and terminate system services to that member thirty (30) days after the date of mailing of notice of default and termination of services to the defaulting party, unless the defaulting party cures the default in full prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) days set forth in the notice. The notice of the default declared by the Policy Committee shall be issued by the Lead Agency. The defaulting party shall continue to be responsible to pay its assigned share of the cost of Consortium as determined in accordance with this Agreement for the ensuing nine (9) months following the termination of system services. If the defaulting party, within the nine (9)-month period, pays all amounts due and the costs incurred by the Consortium in updating the information in relevant databases, system services to the party shall be reinstated.

SECTION 12. DISSOLUTION

It is the intent of the parties to maintain Consortium as a continuing operation. However, should any of the parties elect to withdraw its participation in and support of Consortium, then Consortium may continue in operation for the benefit of the remaining parties if a minimum of two (2) of the parties elect to continue their participation.

SECTION 13. EQUIPMENT; USE AND OWNERSHIP; LOAN EQUIPMENT

All equipment purchased for Consortium shall be purchased, utilized and disposed of by the Lead Agency and held in trust for Consortium use. It shall be recorded and identified by the Lead Agency as Consortium Agreement property, separate from other Lead Agency property. Prior to dissolution of Consortium, all proceeds from the sale of any Consortium Agreement property or data shall be devoted solely to the operation of Consortium. In the case of a change in Lead Agency, all right, title, and interest to Consortium property shall be transferred with the Lead Agency function to the new Lead Agency.

Any member agency may, with approval of the Policy Committee, loan personal property or equipment to the Lead Agency for the use of Consortium. Such property shall continue to be owned by the member agency, and the Lead Agency shall keep written records of such loaned

equipment. If the party owning the loaned equipment wishes to withdraw it from Consortium service, that party may do so provided that, if in the opinion of the Consortium Director, the property is essential to Consortium and requires replacement to ensure consistency and proper functioning of Consortium, then such loaned equipment shall be withdrawn only after providing a reasonable notice of withdrawal to the other parties.

SECTION 14. RIGHTS OF TERMINATING PARTY TO CONSORTIUM ASSETS

A party terminating its participation in this Agreement shall continue to maintain its financial interest in all equipment purchased for the Consortium operation prior to the date of that member's termination. Such equipment or proceeds derived from the disposition of the equipment shall continue to be used for the continued operation of Consortium until Consortium is dissolved. The Lead Agency shall deliver to the terminating party a list of the equipment in which the terminating party has an interest within twenty (20) days after the effective date of termination.

SECTION 15. DISPOSITION OF CONSORTIUM ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of Consortium, unless the parties otherwise agree:

1. Within 30 days after the last of the parties to agree to dissolve or when 2 or 3 parties terminate participation in the Consortium, the parties shall each select a person technically qualified to evaluate the assets of the Consortium and suggest a manner and method of disposition in a written report. Said person shall, within 60 days after the last of the parties to select a representative, suggest the manner and method of disposition of the assets to the parties in their written report. The person selected shall be guided, but not be restricted, by the following principles, unless otherwise required by law:

- a. The location of the asset, if the location is important to the usefulness of the asset;
- b. Whether an asset would be useful only when used in conjunction with another asset;
- c. The impact on any user who is, or may be impacted, by the disposition;
- d. The replacement value of the asset;
- e. The population served by the asset;
- f. Any federal regulations which govern the disposition of the assets.

If the chief administrative officer of any party is not evidenced agreement within 28 days after receipt of the report, by notifying the Chief Administrative Officer of the other parties in writing, the parties shall be deemed to have not agreed on the disposition by this method and proceed to method 2.

2. All assets held in trust by the Lead Agency on behalf of the parties to this Agreement shall be sold at a public sale, and the proceeds, all assets held in trust by the Lead Agency on behalf of the parties of this Agreement will be sold at public sale and the proceeds, after deducting all costs of sales and any unpaid obligations relating to such assets or operating expenses of the Consortium, shall be divided among the parties to this Agreement in equal amounts.

Any one (1) or more of the parties shall have the right to purchase such assets at their fair market value prior to any public sale. Such fair market value shall be determined by unanimous vote of the Policy Committee. If any one (1) party wishes to purchase such assets or a particular asset for the fair market value, the matter will be decided by lot. Any persons purchasing assets in the right-of-way of a government unit, including the right-of-way of the parties, shall be required to enter into an agreement with that governmental unit for the use of

the right-of-way, and there shall not be any continuing right to use the righty-of-way of a governmental unit as an inherent aspect of the purchase.

SECTION 16. INSURANCE

The Lead Agency shall procure and maintain, during the term of this Agreement or any extension thereof, sufficient property insurance to cover the replacement value of the Consortium equipment and all equipment loaned to Consortium, against all direct loss or damage. The cost of any such insurance shall be a cost of operating Consortium, to be borne by the parties hereto in the same manner as other costs in accordance with this Agreement. The Lead Agency shall procure and maintain liability and worker's compensation insurance for Consortium operations in accordance with insurance purchase standards for its other operating departments. The insurance shall name each member agency as additional insured under the liability policy procured.

SECTION 17. LIMITATIONS OF PERSONNEL

No employee shall have authority to commit, obligate or bind any party hereto to any contract or obligation unless specifically authorized by said party, except as provided for in this Agreement.

SECTION 18. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended in writing at any time by mutual agreement of all of the parties to the Agreement. Amendments shall refer back to this Agreement and to subsequent amendments, if any, on the same subject and shall specify the language to be changed or to be added. The execution of any amendment shall be authorized by passage of an appropriate ordinance or other proper and lawful corporate action by the corporate authorities of each party.

SECTION 19. ADDITIONAL NON-VOTING MEMBERS

The Policy Committee may add new non-voting governmental members to the Policy Committee if such admission to membership would assist the Committee in the conduct of its business.

SECTION 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall be effective as to each member on the date such member executed the Agreement.

SECTION 21. NOTICES

Notices hereunder shall be provided personally or by first class mail to the Chancellor of the University and to the Chief Administrative Officer of each party and to the attorney representing each party. The date of the notice shall be the third day after the date of mailing of notice is provided by mail. If the notice is provided by personal delivery, the date of personal delivery is the date of the notice.

SECTION 22. APPLICABLE LAWS

On performing the obligations hereunder, the parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and the terms of any grant agreement concerning ARRA funds.

SECTION 23. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be signed in several counterparts, each of which shall be considered an originally executed agreement for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals to this Agreement as of the dates below indicated.

CITY OF CHAMPAIGN

CITY OF URBANA

By: _____
City Manager

By: _____
Mayor

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

City Attorney

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

By: _____
Comptroller

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
Secretary

Chancellor

Business Office

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Campus Legal Counsel

j:\leg\word\intergovernmental relations\big broadband\big broadband i-g agreement 6-29-09.doc

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



AGRICULTURE

GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

- REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690
- 202 NORTH PROSPECT ROAD
SUITE 203
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
(309) 663-7049
- 655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT 8
CHARLESTON, IL 61920
(217) 348-6759
- 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

Aug. 18, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
HCHB, Room 4812
Washington, DC 20230

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of the Champaign-Urbana Big Broadband application for grant assistance.

This groundbreaking effort is supported by a wide array of local government jurisdictions, business groups, civic groups and everyday citizens. Organizers have put forth a sophisticated and workable plan, backed by local resources, to bring this technology to people and places that are currently underserved.

The educational and economic benefits are incalculable. My hope is that this plan can be a model with the potential to be emulated throughout the country.

Please give every consideration to this plan and do not hesitate to call with questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES

Human Services (Chairman)
Higher Education (Vice-Chair)
Approp. Higher Education
Adoption Reform
Public Policy & Accountability
Environmental Health
Election & Campaign Reform



NAOMI D. JAKOBSSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 103rd DISTRICT
E-mail: naomi@naomijakobsson.com

CAPITOL OFFICE:
257-S Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
217-558-1009
217-557-4536 - FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:
206 N. Randolph, Suite 120
Champaign, IL 61820
217-373-5000
217-373-8679 - FAX

July 31, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
Director of Networking
Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Mike,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) proposal. Having talked with your team members several times, I know the depth of their commitment to not only bring Big Broadband to the “underserved” households in Champaign and Urbana, but to also provide high-speed fiber-optic connectivity to dozen of “anchor institutions” in the community.

The UC2B proposals for enhancing access to public computers and for increased education and technical training address real needs in the community and have the potential to create both educational and employment opportunities for our residents who need them the most.

We appear to be making good progress on finding a streamlined way to allow the University of Illinois to recycle its computers into the community, and by the time your grant funding is announced, we should have that process in place. Planning creative uses of computers and peripherals that can be recycled and rebuilt to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community is precisely the kind of innovation we need. I feel confident that there is a track record of partnership between the University of Illinois and the non-profits that serve children, seniors and low-income families with technology, and I applaud your work. The State of Illinois can and should support this effort by eliminating obstacles. I believe we can make policy changes that allow us to make computers ubiquitous and accessible, and create greater technology inclusion and opportunity for our community. It is these kinds of efforts that foster greater digital literacy for those who are underserved in Champaign-Urbana.

Through my past experience, I am confident that UC2B and the University of Illinois have the capacity to implement the proposed project successfully. Best of luck to you and the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Consortium as you finalize your grant applications. You have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Naomi D. Jakobsson".

Naomi D. Jakobsson
State Representative
103rd District



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1776 EAST WASHINGTON
 URBANA, IL 61802
 (217) 384-3776
 (217) 384-3765 – PHYSICAL PLANT
 (217) 384-3896 – FAX
 (217) 384-3864 – TDD
 Website: www.co.champaign.il.us

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
 DATA PROCESSING
 MICROGRAPHICS
 PURCHASING
 PHYSICAL PLANT
 SALARY ADMINISTRATION

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
 National Telecommunications and Information Administration
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
 HCHB, Room 4812
 Washington, DC 20230

RE: Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Proposal

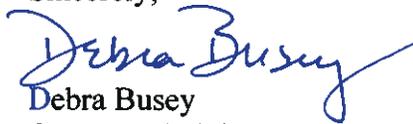
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Champaign County Board and citizens of Champaign County, to support the request for funding through the Federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act through the NTIA BTOP grant and funding from the State of Illinois. The benefits to the various agencies and citizens of Champaign County that can be realized if this project is made possible through this funding are significant.

We are a community with a focus on technology and technology development, with a strong component of private sector representation in this area. This project brings an opportunity to enable public sector organizations to also become leaders in the development and utilization of technology, enhancing the benefits enjoyed by all organizations and private citizens. As our community focuses on emergency preparedness, this project provides an ability to develop inter-connectivity and back-up systems to enable seamless delivery of services, even in emergencies or unforeseen situations, by the numerous government entities delivering those services. Ultimately, this project will also work to bring technology to underserved citizens and families who do not currently have access to these services. This becomes a building block to enhance and sustain excellent educational and workforce development opportunities for our citizens and businesses.

We urge your positive support of the UC2B Proposal funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,


 Debra Busey
 County Administrator



August 7, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
 Director of Networking
 Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
 1304 West Springfield Avenue
 Urbana, Illinois 61801

RE: Support for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B)

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the citizens of the Village of Savoy, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) seeking funding for stimulus funding through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the NTIA BTOP grant and funding from the State of Illinois. As our community continues to grow we see an increasing need to provide necessary opportunities for all families and local businesses in the area of internet, telephone and TV services that helps in communication capability and savings of funds.

As we understand the concept of the UC2B project we believe it will position Champaign-Urbana-Savoy and Champaign County to capitalize in many ways, particularly in community growth and economic development and will make the entire county a potential hotspot for technical and electronic opportunities in the Midwest.

We look forward to working with the consortium in the future to bringing all the benefits of Big Broadband to all citizens of Savoy and Champaign County. We urge the review committee to approve the UC2B application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. McCleary".

Robert C. McCleary, Village President

CC: Board of Trustees
 Richard Helton, Village Manager
 Billie J. Krueger, Village Clerk

PRESIDENT
 Robert C. McCleary

TRUSTEES
 John P. Brown
 Joan Dykstra
 Jan Carter Niccum
 Rebecca Pittman
 Arthur J. Skelton
 William A. Smith

MANAGER
 Richard Helton

TREASURER
 C. David Well

CLERK
 Billie Jean Krueger

**DIRECTOR OF
 PUBLIC WORKS/
 ENGINEER**
 Brent P. Maue

**ZONING
 ADMINISTRATOR**
 Daniel R. Davies

FIRE CHIEF
 Michael E. Forrest

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Department of Commerce

Washington, DC

Dear Broadband Technology Opportunities Program:

For over eight years the City of Champaign, has disposed of its old computers that are non usable by means of donating equipment to a non-for-profit organization. Non usable equipment can either be used for spare parts or given to recycling company for proper disposal.

Through the City recycling process we will continue to donate computer's that the City has retired to organization within the community, i.e. the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Boys and girls club, Employment training center, Prairie net, and Parkland. We are bridging the gap with technology as a means of communication within our neighborhoods and communities. This program would open the doors for people and give people an opportunity to experience technology from a whole new prospective.

The community can provide the locations (churches, youth center, and community center) then UC2B could provide some full time staff, support technician and instructor. They would be responsible for the install, setup and maintains for the onsite computer lab center. UC2B would also provide user friendly computer and application classroom training. The local business would donate equipment.

The community has some sites that are used for Community center labs, after school center and summer labs with access to computer resources for some community. In the past these sites failed because that needed support technician to maintain the computers and provide instructors on hardware and software application on a regular basic. The funding from UC2B would be the glue that puts all the location, business organization, community and staff working together.



Brenda L. Reed

Network Technician

City of Champaign



Clara Lane 217/403-2050
200 West Green Street FAX 217/403-2053
Champaign, IL 61820-5193 champaign.org

August 4, 2009

Dr. Abdul Alkalimat
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Room 102, MC-143
102 West Nevada
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dr. Alkalimat:

Enclosed please find my letter of support and a spreadsheet listing estimated costs for the initiatives for which we would like to request funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our request totals \$290,500. A description of the projects are included in the letter of support.

Thank you for all you are doing to facilitate this important work for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marsha Grove".

Marsha Grove
Library Director



Clara Lane 217/403-2050
200 West Green Street FAX 217/403-2053
Champaign, IL 61820-5193 champaign.org

August 4, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in support our library's participation in the local initiative, UC2B and the application for stimulus funding to improve our community's broadband infrastructure and utilization by citizens.

The Champaign Public Library is an integral part of the community, both for traditional library services and as a portal to the internet for thousands of users. The new main library building, opened in January 2008 and this past year almost 150,000 computer uses were made on the 88 public computers, which share a 10 Mbps connection to the internet. A wireless network extends internet access to users with personal laptops throughout the building, and typically hosts 50 to 70 people at any given time. Douglass Branch Library, a small branch building located in a neighborhood on the near north side of the City with a large minority population, offers 10 computers for adults and children and also hosts a wireless network. Connection speed at the Douglass Branch is only 1.4 Mbps. Both locations offer open computing time as well as classes and one-on-one assistance.

Recent use of the library has grown steadily. Over 800,000 people visited the library this past year, a 17.5% increase over 2008. During a recent week, typical of many during the year, almost 15,000 people visited the main library on Monday through Friday, and about 3,000 on Saturday and Sunday. At the Douglass Branch 1,200 visitors were counted Monday through Friday, and about 60 visited the Branch during the six hours it was open on Saturday. Computer use has also grown, from 97,213 sessions last year to 167,551 sessions in 2009. Customers tell us that library computer resources are vital to them in these difficult economic times. Many people are disconnecting their home internet services to save money, and rely on access at the library to search for jobs and conduct their personal business.

We believe this high and continually growing level of use is telling us that our residents consider the library as a convenient and necessary place in the community to access the internet. Libraries have always provided an important link from the individual to the wider world, and continue to do so today, using online resources.



Clara Lane 217/403-2050
200 West Green Street FAX 217/403-2053
Champaign, IL 61820-5193 champaign.org

Children must learn computer and online skills in order to be successful in school and to prepare for employment in today's highly technological job market. Libraries can help fill the gap for children who do not have easy access to computers, or assistance in learning to use them. Our Douglass Branch, in particular, has a critical role in offering computers and internet access to the minority children in its neighborhood whose test scores show that they are lagging in these important skills. The Champaign Public Library would like to expand its resources and programs and its ability to collaborate with other community groups to close the achievement gap in this area.

The Champaign Public Library would use a stimulus award for the following:

- Expand our computing center at the Douglass Branch with the addition of 10 traditional desktop computers and renovated space to house them. We would also add 10 laptops or other portable devices to be used in the building with our wireless network or for stand-alone tasks. Estimated cost for the equipment, additional educational software and online resources, network infrastructure, building renovations, and furniture needed to accomplish this expansion is \$150,000.
- Provide 10 laptops and 10 additional mobile devices such as e-book readers, web ready cellphones, etc. for use in the main library. These mobile devices would be used by patrons in all parts of the building and would be particularly useful for caregivers who are watching over small children, or for parents working with their children at study tables or in study rooms away from the traditional computer area. The equipment would also allow patrons to try out the newest technologies to help with their decision to purchase. Estimated cost: \$25,000.
- Purchase 10 laptops to create a portable computer lab for library staff or other organizations to use to present programs or instruction. Estimated cost: \$15,500.
- Hire two full-time technical assistants who would teach classes in computer and internet use, help train staff and customers, and assist with the maintenance of the added equipment. Cost including salary and benefits: Estimated cost: \$100,000 annually.

The Champaign Library is grateful for the opportunity to propose these projects that would greatly expand our ability to meet community need and demand for computing resources. The Library would be able to contribute the required 20% matching funds (\$58,100) using its capital fund resources.

Sincerely,


Marsha Grove
Library Director



Clara Lane
 200 West Green Street
 Champaign, IL 61820-5193
 217/403-2050
 FAX 217/403-2053
 champaign.org

Douglass Branch Library	
Item	Total
Add'l computers	\$ 12,500.00
Building renovation for a computer lab	\$ 95,000.00
Network Infrastructure upgrades (replace router, switches, server)	\$ 20,000.00
Inhouse Loaner Laptops or other portable devices	\$ 12,500.00
Security System with cameras covering the computer lab	\$ 10,000.00
	Total \$ 150,000.00

Main Library Building	
Item	Total
Inhouse loaner laptops or other portable devices	\$ 25,000.00
	Total \$ 25,000.00

Portable computer lab	
Item	Total
Laptops, printer, switch	\$ 13,500.00
Laptop houseing cart	\$ 2,000.00
	Total \$ 15,500.00

Full time staff	
2 Additional technical assistants	\$ 75,000.00
Benefits	\$ 25,000.00
	Total \$ 100,000.00

Total Requested **\$ 290,500.00**



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3326 • 217/247-4057 • FAX: 217/247-4061 • urbanafree.org

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues:

The Urbana Free Library is an eager participant in the UC2B joint proposal from the University of Illinois and the cities of Urbana and Champaign. We are a popular, busy public library, visibly serving people across the wide economic, educational, and cultural spectrum reflected in our community's School Report Card and Census demographics.

Like most public libraries, ours has a heavily utilized public computer center. In the fiscal year ending June 30, we recorded 107,644 computer sessions. Our computer users typically have either no computers/printers or no Internet access or slow Internet access at home.

We currently have 44 public computers with full Internet access, and we could use more. We particularly need laptops to extend service when the lab is full, in departments where library floor space limits additional desktops, for small group and individualized instruction in our study rooms, for community-building group projects, and for offsite outreach and technology education.

Our biggest need is for more staffing to help the public. We are experiencing two trends. We serve increasing numbers of people, displaced from their jobs, who need computers or assistance to apply for jobs or for government programs. We serve increasing numbers of people who need information or help for a tech-related activity, such as turning on their wireless or downloading free software. These are staff-intensive needs.

With stimulus money, our library aspires to have increased technology training for our staff and volunteers, extra staff dedicated solely to the computer center, staff available for one-on-one assistance when needed, a core of classes on basic technology topics, and staff outreach to offsite locations within the community. The library's initial focus must be on meeting the needs of low-skill technology users, with eventual growth toward technology projects that can stimulate community activity and economic development.

The library is well-supported by our City, but nevertheless struggles to stay ahead of public demand. Approximately half of our public Internet computers were replaced last year, and half are five years old. Our service desks are staffed all 70 hours per week that the library is open, but librarians simultaneously handle phone and walk-in requests for information while helping those with technology needs in the lab.

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
The Urbana Free Library, UC2B support letter
Page 2

The Urbana Free Library strongly supports the UC2B grant application. As a community, Urbana-Champaign has much to recommend it.

There is strong history of technology leadership and vision with outstanding examples in the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science program in Community Informatics and its precursor, the Prairienet Community Network.

There is a strong history of grass-roots citizen advocacy and volunteer involvement evidenced in such diverse projects as the Independent Media Center, Books for Prisoners, the Crisis Nursery that offers emergency childcare and support to families in need, Champaign County Health Care Consumers, and the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program that represents abused and neglected children in the courts.

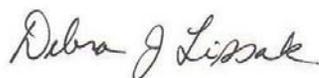
There is a strong history of inter-agency cooperation, encompassing everything from libraries that offer reciprocal service to those from other communities; to programming available on local public access television; to joint technology projects between cities, county, and schools; to the university's civic engagement initiatives which bring their expertise to off-campus programming for the general public.

Finally, the Urbana-Champaign community boasts strong, established supporting organizations whose commitment to advancing technology is evident in their own current activities.

The UC2B grant will help all of us cross the initial investment in infrastructure, not just equipment and fiber infrastructure, but also the people infrastructure necessary to minimize inefficient, expensive duplication of training and development.

This community has a track record that portends well for both effective deployment of broadband access and continued local commitment.

Sincerely,



Debra Lissak
Executive Director



**DON MOYER
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

August 10, 2009

Officers
Toney Tomaso
President

Jane Solon
Vice-President

James Richardson
Treasurer

Gary Kling
Secretary

Tara Swearingen
Immediate Past President

Board of Directors
Mark Czys
Ted Demeris
Mike Devocelle
Dan Hartleb
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Cathy Hinton
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Reggie Jones
Peter McFarland
David Mills*
Donald Moyer, Jr.*
Penn Nelson*
Julian Olds
Stefanie Pratt
Mark Ritz
Dr. Christopher Span
Joe Stovall*
Cathy Tanner
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*Past Presidents

Lifetime Honorary
Board of Directors
J.C. Caroline
Harold Dawson +
Carl Greenstein, M.D.+
Donald E. Moyer, Sr.+
Bill Proudfit
Joseph Smith
Kenneth Stratton+
Clarence Thompson+

+Deceased

Executive Director
André Arrington

To Whom It May Concern:

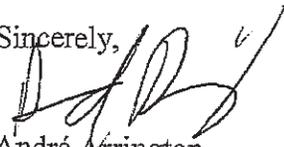
The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club is please to submit this letter of support to the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Initiative. This initiative could have major impact on the digital divide in the most impoverished areas of the Champaign-Urbana community.

The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club serves over 1,500 youth annually, of which over 80% of our youth are from economically disadvantage circumstances (based on the standards of median income for the cities of Champaign and Urbana) and 93% are from single parent households.

Our organization has two computer labs providing our members with high speed Internet and as well quality technology. We also provide technology classes for youth in the areas of Microsoft applications, music and media.

That is why Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club supports this initiative. It allows the most economically challenged areas as well as citizens to have access to one of the most needed resources in order to be competitive in the global market place.

Sincerely,


André Arrington
Executive Director

AA/vh



Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center
202 S. Broadway Avenue Suite 100
Urbana, Il 61801

To Whom It May Concern:

The Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center (UCIMC) supports the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's UC2B Proposal to establish broadband access to bridge the digital divide, grow broadband adoption, and provide outreach and training to the most underserved residents in our community.

Founded in 2000, the UCIMC's mission is to foster the creation and distribution of media and art emphasizing underrepresented voices and perspectives and to promote empowerment and expression through media and arts education. To this end, the UCIMC owns and operates 30,000 square foot a Community Media and Arts Center in the center of downtown Urbana. Our center houses a community radio station, performance space where performers can broadcast live and over radio and internet, media production and training facility with media equipment for check out, an art gallery, and a numerous artist studio and teaching spaces.

The UCIMC is a volunteer based organization with 1200 active volunteers logging 61,250 hours and serving 65 organizations and 284,002 members of the public in 2008. UCIMC provides free community web hosting and listservs to 204 organizations, such as the Volunteer Illini and Red Cross. Our programs serve a variety of ages, and are targeted towards populations underrepresented in the media such as African-Americans, Latinos, new Americans, youth, and the working poor. Our center is open to the public. All of our services are on a donation-only basis.

Some of our recent projects involve designing a computer training facility for the Boys and Girls Club and a media training program at Ready Drop Out Prevention Program, and hosting an Indy Media and Arts Lab for Youth.

UCIMC developed CUWiN (cuwireless.net), an internationally recognized leader in open source mesh network software. Our team deployed the first wifi network in Champaign-Urbana as well as places such as rural Homer, Illinois, the tribal lands of the Mesa Grande Reservation, and the townships of South Africa.

This project will boost the capacity of the UCIMC to serve area organizations and members of the public as one of the community's technology center hubs. With BTOP support, the UCIMC will be able to greatly expand the number of people we serve. The UCIMC currently serves 16 computers, 22 offices, 78 websites, and 204 listservs off of a single cable connection! No additional services can be provided and the current ones are in jeopardy without additional broadband.

We will upgrade our media production lab, establish a fully functional public access computer lab, and provide community web hosting and listservs to many more organizations.

Champaign-Urbana has been a model of community involvement in the application process. UCIMC and other CTC's have participated in the creation of and served on the Broadband Access Committee, which held 3 well attended public forums to educate the public on broadband opportunities and gather input for the application. We created 6 writing teams, tapping the expertise of the community in areas such as job creation, public access computing, and network operations.

CUOpenAccess.org was formed as a coalition of community partners. These partners put dozens of foot soldiers put on the street to collect over 500 surveys on broadband needs. Over a dozen radio shows on broadband access have been produced. And the community is jazzed about the possibilities opened up by a community owned and controlled network.

Adelante!

Danielle Chynoweth

Danielle Chynoweth
Grants Coordinator
Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center
chyn@ucimc.org
217-344-8820

Champaign-Urbana Open Access Coalition

www.cuopenaccess.org

August 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Champaign-Urbana Open Access Coalition, I would like to submit a letter of support for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program proposal that is being put forth by UC2B. For the past several months, we have been working to provide education and information about broadband technology access, and the opportunities it affords in partnership with our Broadband Access Committee, a subcommittee of the C-U Telecommunications Commission, the Graduate School of Library & Information Science at the University of Illinois and UC2B.

As our website indicates, we are an emerging inclusive coalition of community organizations and individuals who are exploring the possibilities of open access to broadband and digital inclusion within Champaign-Urbana, focusing on low-income and surrounding rural communities. Our outreach efforts and maintenance of a community portal is designed to foster communication and information exchange as this process develops, with the intent of organizing access that is open, affordable (or free) to neighborhoods in C-U that are currently underserved.

Over the course of the past six months, we have co-sponsored a series of community forums focused on closing the digital divide in our community that have attracted well over a hundred attendees comprised of educators, technology advocates, IT professionals and community organizers who work with marginalized neighborhoods. We have also spent considerable time on our local radio station, WEFT 90.1 talking about the possibilities that broadband can provide to young people, seniors and the creative class in our community – all to positive response. In the process of generating grassroots awareness, we have helped to harness the imagination of the residents of Champaign-Urbana about how we can create and sustain a more connected community.

We live in a part of the country that has the potential to pilot amazing results, leveraging the power of the Coalition members – from the largest Independent Media Center in the United States, to our Food Co-operative that can teach children about the slow food movement and healthy lifestyles in their online education programs with the school districts. Our members are world-class computer programmers, entrepreneurs, church members and social workers. We bring a breadth of skills and talents to this proposal, and we will be the foot soldiers that can make job creation and entrepreneurship come to life with a gentle push from the Stimulus Bill. We hope you will take seriously our letter and our coalition members as evidence of our readiness to innovate and create results.

Sincerely,

Safiya

Safiya U. Noble, Webmaster & Organizer

Champaign-Urbana Open Access Coalition

Safiya Umoja Noble, Organizer

Phone: 217.819.7648 • E-Mail: cuopenaccess@gmail.com

Member List: Individuals

Akua Akyaa Agyeman
Abdul Alkalimat
Laura Allured
Heather Ault
Damon Loren Baker
Trish Barker
Imani Bazell
Nancy Benson
Eric Benson
Lisa Bievenue
Dan Blah
Brandon Bowersox
Jack Brighton
david miles brown
Debbie Cassels
Camille Chesley
Allison Clark
Catherine R Dorsey
Marianne Downey
Brian Duggan
Mary Ellen Farrell
Jon Gant
David Gehrig
Jeff Ginger
David Glynn
Saramanda Goodwin
Paolo P. Gujilde
Christopher Paul Hamb
Sharon Irish
Sharif Islam
Sarah Jackman
Eric Jakobsson
Meadow Jones

Member List: Individuals

Adam Kehoe
Kristin LoDolce
Brian Looker
Aysha McWorter
Ryann and Chris Monahan
Safiya Umoja Noble
Otis Noble III
Andrew Ó Baoill
Lori Gold Patterson
Maya Patterson
Pete Resnick
Kathleen Ricker
Chris Ritzo
Elizabeth Simpson
Michael Smeltzer
Krannert Center
Jonathan Storm
Aiko Takazawa
Evelyne Tardy
Umesh Thakkar
Mary Wilkes Towner
Mike Ullmann
Rev.Dr. Evelyn B.
Underwood
Anna Ustupski
Marti Wilkinson
Kate Williams
Andrew Zimmerer
Jason Keist
Josh King
Stuart Laird
Noah Lenstra
John Lewis

Member List: Organizations

A Woman's Fund Inc.
Acorn Active Media Foundation
Brian Bell Parkland College DCEO
grant coordinator
Chambana.net
Champaign County Black Chamber
of Commerce
Common Ground Food Co-op
CUontheNet.net
CUWiN Foundation
Digital Workforce Education
Don Moyer Boys & Girls
Club/Crosspoint Human Services
Graduate School of Library &
Information Science (GSLIS) at Illinois
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local #601
Metanoia Centers
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Urbana-Champaign Chapter
OJC Technologies
Open-Source Wireless Coalition
Parkland College Community
Education
Restoration Urban Ministries
SisterNet
University of Illinois Community
Informatics Lab
Urbana-Champaign Independent
Media Center

CUontheNET.net

121 Goose Alley, Urbana, IL 61801

217.34.0444 tel • 217.278.7171 fax • www.cuonthenet.net

August 5, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP Selection Committee,

CUontheNet would like to express its energetic support of UC2B's Big Broadband proposal. Numerous CUontheNet organizers and participants have been instrumental in the months of research, community organizing, conceptualization, and collaboration that have resulted in UC2B's proposal.

CUontheNet's mission is as follows: We are a charitable non-profit organization focused on providing technology access to underserved and low-income communities, including the possibilities of open access to broadband and digital inclusion within Champaign-Urbana, IL. Our group provides services that include education, training, equipment repair, consulting, internet services, replacement resources, and software development. As such, we are specifically poised to support UC2B in several facets of the implementation, operation, and sustainability of the Champaign-Urbana Big Broadband technology.

CUontheNet was born out of a local technology consulting company, OJC Technologies, which has been collaborating with the University of Illinois, PrairieNet, the Urban League, the Boys & Girls Club, the Housing Authority of Champaign County, and many other local advocates for underserved populations for the past 11 years. Specifically, we have supported the technical installation of numerous Computer Technology Centers, provided ongoing technical assistance to Centers in order for them to remain in top working order, provided basic computer usage training to youth as well as senior populations, and taught free computer programming classes to motivated citizens. In addition, OJC Technologies has operated an internet and phone based Support Center for hundreds of thousands of internet software users. Our Support Center offers a vast range of support from end user support for new software users to highly technical support for System Administration staff. We have served as the development home of the Champaign-Urbana Wireless Network (CUWIN), which created free community wireless networking software used by networks around the globe, from Hurricane Katrina to rural Africa, to inner city Chicago. CUontheNet has access to the full range of services, experience, staff, and resources of OJC Technologies.

In addition to engineering and technology professionals, CUontheNet includes Education, Policy and Instruction, Online Learning, and Library and Information Science researchers and Professors. Our participants have decades of experience in understanding technology cultures and the barriers of entry, and have developed numerous community based programs in order to broaden the engagement of underserved populations. Some of our work has focused on teaching young people how to use media technology to take control of the archived data of their communities, by researching and publishing the experiences of their elders. Our team includes culturally relevant expertise to engage disadvantaged populations.

We encourage the BTOP Selection Committee to choose the proposed Urbana-Champaign UC2B project to serve as a model for fast broadband adoption in urban communities. We believe that fast broadband will transform the capabilities of our community organizations and transform the lives of our residents—every child in our schools, every blue collar worker wanting to upgrade their skills, and every University researcher seeking richer online global collaboration.

We intend to contribute to the successful, community-wide adoption of fast broadband technology to bridge the digital divide and provide job opportunities and knowledge to every part of our community. We're a smart, connected group of people ready to do anything that's needed to shepherd this project to success—remotely connect and manage all community labs, develop software, develop culturally relevant education and marketing efforts to ensure successful, long-term adoption by the intended market, develop and conduct training events. We believe the strong network of organizations and partners in Urbana-Champaign makes this an ideal model project.

Thank you in advance for considering the model that Champaign-Urbana can be in developing a model city and series of programs for the entire nation. We feel confident that we know how to disseminate and share learning from our UC2B collaboration in an open-source fashion that will allow others to learn and implement our best practices.

Sincerely,

Lori Patterson, Board Chair, CUontheNet.net
& CEO, OJC Technologies

Champaign Urbana Area Project



514B N. NEIL STREET • CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820 • PH: 217.373.2827 • FAX: 217.373.5013 • WEB: WWW.CUAPWEB.ORG

August 7, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear friends:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) initiative. This project is a key component in breaking cycles of poverty and in beginning to reverse a trend of historical disparities in Champaign-Urbana that has been catastrophic for the under served and predominantly African-American areas of Champaign and Urbana, in particular the "North End."

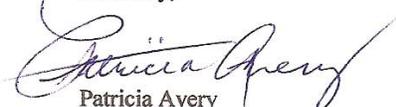
The Champaign-Urbana Area Project (CUAP) has worked for nearly 20 years in what has been termed the "North End" serving low-income families and under served youth. Many of our youth and their families' that we serve opportunities and resources are scarce and limited. CUAP seek ways to collaborate with the community and especially the University of Illinois to assist with their needs. The UC2B initiative is exciting and would be a complement to work that is currently being shared by CUAP and the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, Community Informatics "Engaging and Empowering Youth (E2Y) Initiative. The E2Y initiative involves African American youth in a year-long community asset mapping and engagement project. Technology provided by E2Y allows the youth mappers to post their asset findings to their own website and Google maps at the University School of Library and Information Science building. Use of this state of the art technology would not be possible if not for the partnership between CUAP and the University of Illinois.

CUAP is a social justice and community organizing agency in Champaign County. CUAP's primary mission focuses upon juvenile delinquency prevention. We take a holistic approach to our work, attempting to identify and remove the underlying sources of delinquency. In our work, we have specifically observed:

1. Youth constantly call out for positive opportunities, including jobs, job training, and a safe teen center in their neighborhoods.
2. Youth getting into trouble have a limited view of the world. Many have not been exposed to areas outside of their own neighborhood.
3. Youth getting into trouble also have parents who were in trouble, have health problems, and/or are unemployed.

UC2B is not the answer to all of our community's problems, but it is a very good start. Through UC2B, youth and their parents will have access to training in technology that will help them to get jobs. Broadband access, and the knowledge of how to make use of it, will expose our area's youth to a world of ideas and opportunities that they are currently blind to. Moreover, CUAP intends to work with UC2B to ensure that the community technology center planned in northern Champaign-Urbana is built in conjunction with a youth center. CUAP will also assist with the organization of UC2B's Community Advisory Board, ensuring that the neighborhoods that UC2B intends to serve are adequately represented. As Vice President of the Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce, I will ensure that the community is connected with the business incubator and entrepreneurship programs that will be part of UC2B.

Sincerely,


Patricia Avery
Executive Director

404 W. Church St.
Champaign, IL 61820-3411
tel 217.352.5151
fax 217.352.6494
www.uwayhelps.org



Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

August 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you on behalf of United Way of Champaign County, Illinois. The mission of United Way is to be the leader in mobilizing resources to meet human care needs in Champaign County. In that capacity we have consulted with the UC2B grant writing team at the University of Illinois to explore the many ways that bringing broadband will benefit underserved families in Champaign-Urbana. We know that there are an excess of 24,000 individuals living at or below the poverty level in Champaign County and a large portion of these individuals live in the neighborhoods where expanded access is being proposed. We would endorse not only increased access for families, especially those with school age children but also strongly support expanded broadband access available to the public in places like libraries, community centers and social service organizations.

Expanded Broadband access could not only be a source of information about services available to meet basic needs (food pantries, health care, counseling, shelters), but could also be used for education and training. Parent education, school readiness, homework assistance, financial literacy are but a few of the topics that could be made available to families in need. In attempting to expand access for individuals and families with limited resources it will be critical to address issues related to the exploitation of the economically disadvantaged. Of particular importance will be protecting children from internet predators and protecting families and senior citizens from identity theft and other internet scams.

United Way of Champaign County provides funding to 35 social service agencies in Champaign County. We convene monthly meetings of the Executive Directors of these organizations and can provide a direct communication opportunity between the UC2B staff and the organizations that are serving the population targeted in this proposal.

United Way of Champaign County supports the efforts of the UC2B staff and their proposal for broadband expansion in Champaign Urbana. If you need further information please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyn Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Lyn Jones

President and CEO

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Street Address
401 East Park Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 334
Champaign, Illinois 61824-0334

Phone: (217) 356-0323

Fax: (217) 356-0483

email: bethelame401@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Tyson J. Parks
Illinois Conference
North District Presiding Elder



The Rt. Rev. John R. Bryant
Fourth Episcopal District
Presiding Bishop

August 10, 2009

Rev. Larry Lewis, Pastor

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

Bethel African Methodist Church (A.M.E.) writes this letter in support of the UC2B broadband application. Bethel A.M.E. church has several outreach ministries to the local community. We also allow our building to be utilized for community meetings and for non profit groups who work with disadvantaged youth. In the past, we have had a mentoring program, a cooking program, and an after-school tutoring program operating out of our facility. We would be able as a community lab to greatly increase the hours that our facility can be used for community services. We have a small lab but very limited access to the internet.

A high speed broadband connection would help the children in our immediate community to do their homework on line, and to access the vast resources of the internet. We would also open the facility to senior citizens who may not have ready access and or training in how to utilize resources on the internet.

The programs and services that our facility could house and advance would be able to grow to meet the demands of our youth and our seniors. For these reasons, we highly and enthusiastically support the UC2B proposal.

Respectfully,

*Nathan Banks on behalf of
Reverend Larry Lewis*
Reverend Larry Lewis
Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church

Letter of Support for

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Initiative

Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center

(CIMIC)

Preface:

As a community center, we fully support the UC2B initiative esp. with an eye towards closing the digital divide and empowering local communities in domains such as information dissemination, community education, digital literacy, preparing people for new technology jobs, and effective organization.

CIMIC as a community resource:

CIMIC is not just a community center for those of Islamic faith in the East-Central Illinois region. We have served as a resource center for all people of Urbana-Champaign. We have had long-standing links with diverse local entities, including but not limited to churches, colleges, universities, and social justice organizations. We host class visits for various classes from Univ. of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, Parkland College, Lincoln Christian College and others. The library on our premises has been a community resource for anybody living in Urbana-Champaign. Members of our Outreach Committee have conducted cultural and religious sensitivity workshops for local law enforcement agencies. These are just a few examples of the spectrum of activities in which CIMIC engages.

CIMIC and Internet Usage:

CIMIC took full advantage of Internet and Web in general and Prairienet services in particular to effectively organize the community. Examples include:

1. We have had mailing lists for our community members since about 1994. At this point we have 4 different mailing lists, with another 2 to come online soon.
2. Our website came online around 1996 and is one of the first websites of any mosque in the world.
3. We created forms on our website so that people can send in requests. For example, chaplains in prisons across Illinois use these forms to contact us to send them literature for inmates.
4. We started archiving our materials online so that a sense of institutional memory can be created. This is very important given that we have a high turnover in our community, being primarily a student community.

5. We used email aliasing services to effectively devolve responsibilities over our volunteer base.
6. We provide wireless access across our premises.

CIMIC's proposal to be a public computing center:

CIMIC has an abiding interest in being a public computing center as envisioned in the UC2B initiative. Here are the activities we envision instituting at our center if we were to have broadband access and a few desktop machines:

1. Provide interactive material for class visits from colleges and universities in the area.
2. Provide a venue for members to brush-up on their technology skills in general and computer usage skills in particular. We have often our members asking for opportunity to learn word-processing, spreadsheet skills, etc. We will be able to meet this need with this initiative.
3. Provide facility to have lectures and community events at our site recorded and available for download or streaming over the web.
4. We can have more events where the speakers are speaking through tele-conferencing calls and links.
5. Provide tutoring services for students at school and college level.
6. Provide internet access to community members who lack internet access at home, esp. students who need internet access for their school work.

Outreach and Internet Committees

Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (CIMIC)

106 S. Lincoln Ave.

Urbana, IL 61801.

cimic@cimic.org

www.cimic.org

Muslim American Society (MAS)
Urbana-Champaign Chapter
P.O. Box 331, Urbana, IL 61803-0331
www.masurbana-champaign.org



August 17th, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Subject: Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) – Public Computing and Sustainability

Dear members of Broadband Technology Opportunities Program,

I am writing to express the willingness of Urbana-Champaign chapter of Muslim American Society (MAS-UC) to participate in UC2B Public Computing and Sustainability project by providing a spacious space in our new Community Club as a public computer center. We believe that through UC2B program, MAS-UC will significantly expand its abilities to fulfill its goals of serving Urbana-Champaign community.

Urbana-Champaign chapter of Muslim American Society (MAS-UC) was established in 2007 as a grassroots community organization that works to educate, organize, and empower the Muslim community to be active, contributing citizens who play a significant role towards positive social and spiritual change. MAS-UC acquired the new Community Club, located in 2011 Brownfield Rd Urbana, in March 2009, which has designated spaces for different community services, which include food bank, fitness center, as well as technology and educational center. For more information about the Community Club, please visit our website at www.masurbana-champaign.org.

We started requesting used computers and software packages from the cities of Urbana and Champaign to furnish the technology and educational center. The planned objective of this center is to help developing the underserved community around the Community Club by providing a group of educational classes such as language, computer literacy, and technology training. MAS-UC is concerned about the sustainability of underserved and poor neighborhoods in Champaign because of their inability to develop and improve to have the chance for better futures. By getting involved in UC2B, MAS-UC will be able to support the objectives of this center through the utilization of broad band connectivity and the coordination with UC2B staff and participants.

MAS-UC is really excited and motivated to participate in UC2B. We are looking forward for your acceptance of this participation request to help us fulfill the objective of serving our community. We will be glad to submit any additional information for the review of this request.

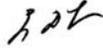
Best regards

Ahmed Taha

President
Urbana-Champaign Chapter of
Muslim American Society (MAS-UC)
P.O. Box 331, Urbana, IL 61803-0331
Phone: 630-217-2778
Email: president@masurbana-champaign.org

Broadband endorsement

Page 1 of 1

From: slewislarry@aol.com 
To: mcworter@illinois.edc
Cc: brodoc99@yahoo.com; kingjames5804@att.net; kingjames5804@att.net
Bcc: Slewislarry@aol.com
Subject: Broadband endorsement
Date: Mon, Aug 3, 2009 8:36 am

Brother Abdul Alkalimat (Gerald A. McWorter)

We would like to thank you for taking the time to attend our meeting on Saturday, August 1, 2009 and sharing with the Ministerial Alliance the latest information on Broadband and how it will impact our community. We realize that we are living in an ever changing and technological world where we are trying to do everything faster and better. The Broadband proposed project is designed to build fiber "rings" around the community, linking schools, hospitals and other key resources. It is also designed to help make connections to homes in areas considered undeserved or vulnerable. We find this to be a very key component of your proposal that we can embrace. However, we do have some concerns on how this proposal will eventually affect property tax on the North side of the city of Champaign - Urbana; whether the University of Illinois in the capacity of the server for the Broadband proposal will annex our community, displacing the minority and lower social economical residents, and how the proposal will affect First Amendment protection when it come the separation of church and state. Notwithstanding our concerns, overall, we find the Broadband proposal very beneficial to our community and it is the consensus of the Ministerial Alliance of Champaign - Urbana and Vicinity to endorse the Broadband proposal.



August 4, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to explain our participation in the UC2B project. Developmental Services Center (DSC), located in Champaign, Illinois, is dedicated to the mission of **enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities by providing services and supports which enable them to live, work, learn and participate in their communities.** Formed through a 1972 merger of four community organizations, DSC provides multiple services in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Piatt counties. Annually DSC serves over 1,400 children and adults with developmental disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, Down syndrome, or other disabling conditions.

Currently our technology is limited to the areas described below:

- Our main location has Internet access through a T-1 line.
 - Our Consumer (preferred term for individuals receiving services at DSC) Computer Lab has access through the T-1 line as well. This lab includes many computer assisted devices such as touch screens, enlarged mouse, Braille keyboards and printers, enlarged keyboards and adjustable computer tables to accommodate individuals who rely on a wheelchair for mobility as well as many different types of software.
- Our group homes and 24-unit apartment building, located throughout the community, have limited access through cable for staff members only.
- Our satellite sites, located in Champaign and Rantoul, have Internet access through a T-1 line.

The primary ways in which we use the technology currently available to us includes email, Internet browsing/information gathering/learning opportunities. In addition to our current uses, we would like to have the

capacity to create a better, more interactive website which can be used by those interested in learning more about DSC and our donors. Additionally, we would like to have greater compatibility between sites, the option for live video-conferencing and interactive conferencing.

In providing services and supports for individuals with disabilities, it is our goal to offer them the same technological resources that people who do not have a disability have come to enjoy. Often times, individuals with disabilities may have a greater need for technology due to lack of opportunities for socialization, family contact, information required for city bus routes, information gathering for where specific items are offered due to difficulty with mobility and lack of resources to get around town; coupled with this greater need, is often greater difficulty in accessing technology.

We are excited about the possibility of collaborating with the UC2B effort. This would provide additional resources and opportunities for the individuals we serve as well as many other under-served citizens in our community. The more inter-connected we become, the stronger the fabric of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate on this project. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 217.398.7110 or jmcateer@dsc-illinois.org.

Sincerely,

Janice McAteer

Janice McAteer
Director of Development
Developmental Services Center
1304 W. Bradley Ave.
Champaign, IL 61821



A Woman's Fund
Ending Violence Everyday

July 30, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP:

I am writing to explain A Woman's Fund's participation in UC2B. A Woman's Fund provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. A Woman's Place, our domestic violence program, offers comprehensive assistance to victims of domestic violence. Adults and children in crisis are assisted in gaining control of their lives and in seeking a healthy environment free from abuse and violence. They are given information and counseling and are supported in making their own decisions about their lives.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Adults and children escaping domestic violence situations may stay on an emergency basis, for a few days or up to 6-8 weeks, depending on their needs. This time is used to begin the healing process and to make decisions about the future. Some women need shelter and support for a longer period of time while they gather the resources or develop the skills needed to live independently. Qualifying women and children may participate in the Families in Transition program. Women and children in this program may live in our facility for up to two years.

Currently we have one computer available for client use. Clients utilize this computer to search for jobs, fill out job applications, hunt for apartments, check their credit reports, contact friends and family in their support system, and check email. Children are not allowed access to the client computer as we do not have the resources to limit their activity and monitor their actions. Ultimately we would like to have a computer lab with up to date PCs, printers, and high-speed internet access. This would reduce time limits imposed and give clients more opportunities to use a computer as needed.

1304 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802 ♥ (217) 384-4462

We often have volunteer groups that come in and host resume writing workshops. It is difficult for them to work with a group of clients as we only we only have one computer workstation. A computer lab would benefit our clients in many ways. Potentially, the UC2B project could help us build a computer lab which would provide our clients with increased computer and high-speed internet access. Our IT staff member would be available to work closely UC2B staff to ensure that the computer lab is running smoothly and that all machines are functioning properly.

The UC2B project would directly benefit our clients. Increased computer access would provide them with resources (job applications, apartment applications, etc) to better their lives and stand on their own two feet. We are excited at the possibilities that this project can offer not only to our clients, but to the Champaign-Urbana community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Tara Bossert

Human Resources Coordinator



August 3, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

Re: Letter of Support for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B)

Dear Friends:

On behalf of The Center for Women in Transition, I am writing in support of UC2B.

The Center for Women in Transition, located in Champaign, IL, is a transitional housing program providing shelter and supportive services to homeless women and their children to foster and sustain their self-sufficiency. We also have a Vocational Training Program at our off-site resale store, *Transitions*, for our residents and women on parole from the Department of Corrections. Both of these groups are disadvantaged, due to social, economic and educational background, as well as other factors, in their ability to access and utilize the internet.

As part of the individualized goal plan for each resident, the agency provides computers and access to the internet to enhance a resident's ability to access local resources, schooling and on-line job searches, as well as using e-mail to communicate with her natural support system. The Vocational Training Program also relies heavily on the use of computers and the internet for employability development and access to community resources.

The computers we provide to our residents for their use are donated equipment, several generations old, and we do not have adequate staff to train our residents on computer software which could be used for writing resumes, completing school projects and on-line searches for resources and jobs. Newer computers and improved broadband service as well as IT and support staff to assist residents in maximizing the internet as a resource would be invaluable.

Additionally, provision of IT and support staff to the agency for development of agency materials on-line, such as newsletters, brochures, website, would significantly improve our ability to reach out to more potential clients and to better educate the community on the issues of homelessness. The UC2B would also streamline communications between local agencies and service providers to ensure complete and coordinated service coverage for the disadvantaged in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

John Sullivan, Executive Director
(217) 819-4611 (DL)
johnsullivan@cwt-cu.org
The Center for Women in Transition
508 E. Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820



*“My parents were always philosophizing
about how to bring about change.
To me, people who didn’t try to make
the world a better place were strange.”*
C.M. Braun

August 10, 2009

Dear UC2B Proposal Team,

I am pleased to write to you in support of our community’s application for broadband infrastructure, education and development funding. As a community-based African American women’s network, we are particularly excited about the opportunity to work with you toward technological parity and expression at a time when “the least of us” might expect to be left in the dust.

SisterNet is a network of African American women committed to nurturing healthy lifestyles and community activism. We have envisioned a new model for Black women’s organizing dedicated to creating wholeness and balance through physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual health. We see our efforts as an essential part of a political strategy to resist oppression and shape livable communities.

The promise of access to state of the art technology and training to create content reflective of our culture and priorities is critical in this time of grave health disparities. Consider:

- African American women are 2.2 times more likely to die from breast cancer than European American women, though the latter develop the disease at a much higher rate
- African American women are disproportionately at risk for and affected by cardiovascular disease (CVD) and Type II diabetes, experiencing 2 times the rate of European American women
- African American women have been found to have the highest rates of physical inactivity and suffer overweight or obesity at the alarming rate of 77%—a major contributing factor for excess morbidity and mortality from CVD, diabetes, hypertension, and multiple cancers

These realities are particularly poignant given another set of related socioeconomic realities:

- African Americans comprise 13.4% of the population, yet make up 24.7% of impoverished households
- 53% of African American children live in single mother households
- Confronting the chronic stressors of racism, sexism, and classism increases African American women's risk for mental and physical disorders

Given African American women's central role in the organization of family life and community engagement, we believe a marked improvement in our health and quality of life will be a key determinant in reversing other major ills crippling the African American community as a whole, such as high rates of academic underachievement and school dropout, under-employment and unemployment, and dreaded HIV infection.

UC2B's and our federal government's commitment to empowering vulnerable populations such as ours cannot come at a more important time. We stand ready to work with you in this comprehensive effort to reach, teach, and facilitate community growth and change. Please keep us informed of the progress of this initiative and feel free to otherwise contact us as need.

Keep Getting Up,

Imani Bazzell, Director

Health • Healing • Leadership
for the lives we've always wanted

July 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Attn. Dear friends:

Re: Letter of support for the Broadband Project from: ***Ted Adkisson/& Associates***



1. I am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and retired Human Resource Officer who was employed at the University of Illinois. In the past, I served as a volunteer resource person in the Champaign-Urbana schools where I taught students about their ancestry in history to help them build self-esteem and self motivation to achieve academic excellence. Likewise, I volunteered as a computer lab instructor to teach Basic Computer Literacy Skills to youth at the Urbana Boy/ Girls club and high school students who attended evening computer lab classes sponsored by the Urban League.

2. Currently I instruct, consult and inform people who are interested in learning how to bridge the historical and digital divide that is present in the underserved/unserved local community. My classes are taught at different times in the mornings, afternoons and evenings at several churches and the Douglass Center located in Champaign's Northeast community. More skills and resources would allow more people in the underserved/ unserved community access to more opportunities through the use of the Broadband to maximize their activity as well as creativity and leave no child offline.

3. My support and part of UC2B could be as Consultant, Independent Contractor, and Instructor with experience to teach basic computer skills to the underserved and unserved populations in the community. Also, part of UC2B with funding for Virtual Media Hub provide from an Access Point several hours programming for broadband channel. Having money/resources/tech. support with media I can teach and broadcast programs to citizens responsibly searching for plausible solutions to empower themselves in the community.

4. There are not enough print or electronic media outlets or facilities to formalize, disseminate and communicate important information addressing issues that empower the underserved and unserved populations to help themselves solve problems in the African-American community. Furthermore, there are not enough open media platforms that are accessible to conduct equally live expressions of the youth and elderly folks to address their issues concerning the disadvantaged in the African-American community.

5. By providing money and resources for media sites, classrooms, training, equipment and technical support UC2B can help my effort to develop skills necessary to solve problems of underserved and unserved people in the community. Also, the media sites, media hubs and media studios can be used as instruments of positive social reform to help ease or eliminate the historical and digital divide in the disadvantaged communities.

Christian Social Action Forum



August 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a response to a request to endorse the establishment of a broadband network to increase the availability of the Internet to the underserved in our community. As Chairperson of the Christian Social Action Forum, Inc. a long standing participant in outreaches for the needy in Champaign County, I heartily give that endorsement, asking that the community stand behind this effort to give a service that is not readily available, but very valuable, to those who do not have resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vern Fein
CSAF Chairperson

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Urban and Regional Planning
111 Temple Buell Hall
611 Taft Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



August 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing as a member of the urban planning faculty at the University of Illinois to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers doctoral, master's and bachelor's degrees, supervised by about 20 faculty members. A key focus at all degree levels is community development. I teach a workshop annually that involves undergraduate and graduate students in addressing challenging local planning issues, such as environmental pollution in low income neighborhoods of color. In organizing this class, I partner with many local residents in identifying their concerns and exploring creative responses to issues that threaten health, housing, and learning. While the information technology available to me as a faculty member and to my students is adequate, our community partners are not nearly so fortunate. This lack underscores the unequal relationships between town and gown and hinders our promotion of citizen science, planning and journalism. With current resources, we are unable to provide the technical support for citizen activism.

A recent project is a case in point. A toxic waste site in a residential neighborhood in north Champaign has been the focus of several years' worth of study and activity. If the environmental reports, past news coverage, organizational responses, municipal records and other documentation related to the site had been easily searchable online, community members could have prepared better for meetings with the corporation charged with clean-up, and with state officials overseeing the process. Also communication among citizens and interest groups may have been more effective if folks were sharing information and gathering answers collaboratively. If meetings could have been streamed online to computers in people's homes, then elders who are less mobile but who have lived in the area for a long time could have been involved. With a volatile mix of politics, science and economics, finding good solutions for local residents is difficult. An infrastructure for speedy Internet access, combined with training and upkeep is crucial for tackling these sorts of complex problems.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ken E. Salo
Lecturer and Community Projects Coordinator



1601 Parkview Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61107
Tel: 815.395.5780
Fax: 815.395.5781

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

August 7, 2009

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

As the Co-PI of the University of Illinois Nuevos Horizontes Media Initiative (NHMI) I am submitting this letter to strongly support the UC2B grant submission. Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons) is a Spanish language educational outreach program using radio and the web to reach Latino immigrant families in the U.S. since 1993. The weekly radio program is produced through Illinois Media Services on the Urbana campus in the studios of WILL Radio the NPR station for the University of Illinois distributed to radio stations, high schools and libraries in 30 states in the U.S. The content of the program includes interviews on emerging topics of interest to the Latino population and health and culture sections. The New Horizons website www.nuevosshorizontes.org includes archives of past programs, podcasts and learning tools.

NHMI with support from the Office of the Chancellor at UIUC has expanded its efforts to greater involve Latina/o community members in Champaign Urbana who are recent immigrants to Illinois and connect them to students and organizations that are able to assist these families become more familiar with the schools, social services and local government programs designed to strengthen their resources and address their needs and concerns. New Horizons looks forward to working with the UC2B program to use broadband and media to better equip at risk families to address emergency preparedness and public safety issues such as severe weather warnings, epidemic related community programs and public safety warnings and instructions.

NHMI will continue to produce media products on family health topics and provide multiple venues of delivery that are appropriate to these vulnerable audiences. New Horizons looks forward to collaborate with UC2B in the implementation of this vital initiative in Champaign Urbana and strongly endorses this proposal

Sincerely,



Ben Mueller
Co-PI, University of Illinois Nuevos Horizontes Media Initiative
and Director, Northern Illinois AHEC
National Center for Rural Health Professions
University of Illinois

August 9, 2009

Hui Yan
Orchard Place 1806C,
Urbana, Illinois, 61801

To whom it may concern,

I'm Hui Yan, a PhD student from Peking University, Beijing, China. Currently I'm studying and working as a visiting scholar in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UIUC.

I hear from friends and advisors and also learn from some meetings that CU2B program plans to improve Internet access speed and provide more community public computing sites. I'm just writing to those officials who are in charge of deciding on the broadband budget to show my support of the CU2B plan.

As a resident in Urbana, I surf the Internet for everyday and frequently keep strong impulses to chat online with my family member and friends in China. Before I moved to Orchard Downs during the past two days, I lived in another apartment in north part of Urbana. The wireless service provided by the commercial agency (Comcast) was not very steady, and broke down nearly once in each hour. Sometimes I got mad because of the bad service and interruption of my virtual communications with the professors, relatives and friends in China. We international students don't have enough financial support and badly need high quality public internet access to keep our social ties close and effective.

During the past year staying in Urbana, I talked a lot in the form of video-conference. However, all the breakdowns of the Internet were caused by unsteady limited Internet services here, not because of Internet in China. According to the CNNIC (China Internet Network Information Center) latest report issued in July 2009, the number of netizens (or Internet users) who could access to broadband Internet has reached 320 million, and covers 94.3% of the netizen total number (338 millions). Even my mom and sisters who are living in SHANXI (an extremely slow-developed province located in the Middle North of China) could access to and enjoy high-speed internet.

I strongly appeal to both the state and federal government that CU2B should be funded immediately and in a sustainable way. I couldn't wait for that day when I could talk freely and with wife, family, friends and colleagues in China.

Respectfully yours,



hyan@illinois.edu



LATINO PARTNERSHIP of Greater Champaign County



Adán Chacon
President
Lucia Maldonado
Vice Chair
David Adcock
Treasurer
Viviana Pieretti
Secretary

*P.O. Box # 5164 Station A
Champaign, Illinois 61825*

August 6, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

On behalf of the Latino Partnership of Champaign County, NFP (LPCC), I am pleased to submit this letter to fully support the UC2B grant submission. Founded in 2002 the Latino Partnership is a clearinghouse agency of more than thirty members representing local government, health and cultural organizations, school districts and Parkland College, libraries and child care providers, social service and safety net agencies, as well as the United Way and businesses that advocate for the improvement of services offered to the Latino population of Champaign County. The Partnership seeks to be responsive to the need for human services among the growing Latino community in greater Champaign County and to decrease the barriers to reaching this population that are often experienced by local area organizations.

The LPCC has experienced from past TOP projects in partnership with Prairienet the benefits of how digital tools and resources have supported the Latino community in Champaign-Urbana. Members from LPCC have already participated with the UC2B in the preparation of a report that identify the Latino family needs related to Broadband Access in Champaign-Urbana.

The Latino Partnership of Champaign County fully supports the UC2B and looks forward to participating in its implementation. Given the urgent needs, we look forward to seeing it come to fruition in the near future.

Sincerely,

Adán Chacon
President

Aiko Takazawa
Doctoral student
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
501 E Daniel Street, Room 112
Champaign, IL 61820

August 11, 2009

To whom it may concern:

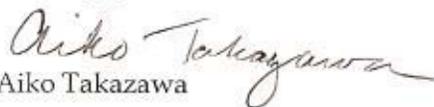
I am writing this letter to support a grant proposal, called Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B). My intention to write this supporting letter comes from various reasons. Foremost, the UC2B emphasizes community and economic development for general public to experience, empower, and facilitate their lives with public information resources and technology.

As a native of Tokyo, Japan, I have been disappointed by the US home computing. Before I came here, I anticipated that technology service for general public would be the best in the world. In fact, I was impressed by university's resources unlike those in Japanese universities. However, my feeling and experiences have become totally different, once I go and live off campus. I have recognized the reality of the United States. No matter where I live outside university residence halls, the choice for broadband is only one company that provides high speed internet. Sadly, the cost and technical performance for the information infrastructure are unbearable! In Japan, I have no fear to make internet calls with video camera and watch movies and TV shows online anytime of a day. In other word, it would be "shock" to see if someone's home does not have internet connection. As like water and electricity, internet connection in Japan is infrastructure. I even recall that someone joked to me "broadband" is outdated. Instead, people call it "fiber", referring to fiber-optic cable connection.

As like in Japan, I communicate with my family and friends, but not all the time. In the US, I feel like I cannot expect to do so. I have to obey the outrageous pricing for slow speed internet and machine-like customer service at a private company, which is the only choice for "broadband" services. Alternatively, I can rely on public libraries for computing, but their computers are very slow, and only thing that I can do with their computer is only browsing websites including online emails within a limited time. I am fortunate to go to on-campus facilities. But I have known the America where people still do not have computers at home with or without internet connection. And, those people live just nearby our campus. We have energetic students who have skills to facilitate the community as a whole to become productive in this information society together. As the plan emphasizes, we have to be sustainable in various ways, not only economic and developmental but also collaborative and enjoyable learning environment.

I strongly believe that the UC2B plan clearly demonstrates such innovative and inclusive opportunities for local people living in Urbana-Champaign. Furthermore, with UC2B plan, the US can demonstrate the power of people empowering themselves and others within and beyond their communities to advance our digital democratic society.

Sincerely yours,


Aiko Takazawa

**KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER OF CHAMPAIGN**

510 E. Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820

www.koreanculturalcenter.net

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of Korean Cultural Center to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. My organization was established since 2006 as a 501 c3 non for profit organization and it functions as a place to foster multiculturalism and inter-cultural exchanges in the United States. KCC collaborates with various organizations to provide array of services to the community. Recently, we addressed issues of educating foreign adoptee children in our community including Korean adoptee children and their families and worked closely with local public libraries to provide services and programs such as story telling events, book fare, multi ethnic play group, etc. Every year, we hosted big ten Korean Ambassador Workshop for training undergraduate students to become global leaders.

Our current technology use is opening web interfaces to our program participants so that they can leave their feedbacks of participations and can download archived past event reports. However, there is so much more that we would like to do if we and our members had improved access to high-speed Internet and the accompanying computing and training facilities proposed in this submission. For example, our organization's goals would be supported by streaming video of our past events for those who missed this event and having easy access to our public documents we developed over years for sharing our knowledge of developing cultural programs. Real time online participation in big ten university workshop and international connections with our collaborative partners in Korea would be much beneficial. We also like to continue a media production project, which early studying abroad Korean students filmed their life stories and shared them at the annual workshop for further discussion and engagement toward social actions. By having this infrastructure and the social networks to support it, our project scopes can extend internationally as it should be in nature and we can make positive changes for our society.

Thank you for your attention.
Sincerely,

Sunny Jeong, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
Korean Cultural Center

Champaign County Nursing Home

500 South Art Bartell Rd
Urbana, Illinois 61802-2888

Phone (217) 384-3784
Fax (217) 337-0120

August 9, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues:

I am writing on behalf of the Champaign County Nursing Home in support of UC2B. We serve 181 elderly nursing home residents who currently have limited access to the Internet. We support any community effort to improve technology access to the residents we serve, particularly as it relates to Internet use. Improving access to the Internet for our residents will enhance their ability to connect with people and organizations outside of the nursing home.

Loneliness is one of the key factors of depression in the elderly. Enhancing access to people and organizations outside of the nursing home will broaden our resident's involvement in our community, in their families, and enrich the last years of their lives.

The UC2B project will improve the lives of the residents we serve. Thank you for considering us within the scope of this project and we look forward to the expanded opportunities it brings our residents.

Sincerely,



Andrew Buffenbarger
Administrator



Housing Authority of Champaign County

205 W. Park Avenue – Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: (217) 378-7100 Fax: (217) 378-7113

“Champaign County Believes in Quality Public Housing”

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Edward Bland
Executive Director
Secretary-Treasurer

August 5, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to fully support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) initiative, which proposes to establish a community-wide broadband network that will connect anchor institutions such as the two hospitals, clinics, and the University of Illinois. I also understand that, in an effort to reach vulnerable populations, the broadband will be available to be connected to the senior residences in Champaign, Urbana and Savoy.

As the executive director of the Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) I am very aware of the need for such resources in the HACC senior residences. Currently we do not provide access to the internet for our residents and most cannot afford/do not purchase internet access on their own. If our residents did have access to computers and the community broadband network I believe they would be very interested in the services that could be offered, such as informational videos and websites sponsored by the local hospitals, social networking sites or e-mail to communicate with their relatives, and access to the local public television archives.

If there is “above ground” support, for example on-site computer workshops or weekly technology visits, for this project I am quite sure the residents would be interested and if it would significantly enhance their quality of life.

I look forward to this project being funded and providing long-needed access to those vulnerable populations that really have no other alternatives and because of that are at great disadvantage and at risk of being cut off from many of the activities and people that matter so much to them. The Housing Authority of Champaign County welcomes this opportunity and will cooperate and contribute in any way that we can.

Sincerely,



Edward Bland
Executive Director



August 5, 2009

Lisa Bievenue
Illinois Informatics Institute
501 East Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Lisa,

This letter is in support of bringing broadband internet service to our area of Urbana.

Although we have always had a core group of residents who used computers in their work and now enjoy them in retirement, computer use in our facility among residents has expanded since students from the INFO Club at the U of I began volunteering in our computer center. Most of the residents who have taken advantage of these student volunteers are folks who probably would not have used the internet but have become interested since moving here and having computer access so available. The INFO students provide assistance in a very supportive, encouraging way and the one-on-one approach to teaching works especially well for our residents. Even some of the “seasoned” computer users have come with questions, and the feedback on this program has been exceptional. There has been a waiting list each and every week!

Since our residents range in age from 62-99years old, this is a perfect example of the saying “you are never too old to learn”. Having access to broadband services would even further enhance the information that these folks and others like them could use to stay connected to their family members, their community, and to the world. And as long as there is an opportunity to learn, the residents at Clark-Lindsey Village will be among the first to step up and take advantage of the opportunity.

Thank you, Lisa, for your interest and involvement with this program.

Best regards,

Penny Porter
Sales Counselor





August 10, 2009

Abdul Alkalimat
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois
501 E. Daniel St.
Champaign IL 61820

Dear Abdul,

For over the past 25 years I have worked with older adults in different retirement communities, one of the most rewarding projects I was involved was to set up a small computer lab in the community. It was even more rewarding to watch a 98 year old woman learn how to utilize the internet and email her grandchildren all over the world.

The residents here at Prairie Winds Supportive Living have access to one computer which is connected to the internet, but has its limitations. By having broadband capabilities in the community, older adults would have access to such much more and would be able to share their experiences. Utilizing available material and developing programs that could be shared intergenerational would be both stimulating and rewarding for the residents. Prairie Winds is already wired to each apartment.

I support the expansion of broadband project in the Champaign Urbana area.

Sincerely



Timothy J. Boisseau
Administrator



August 12, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
U of I
CITES
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mr. Smeltzer,

Champaign Telephone Company (CTC) supports the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project that will be reviewed and awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. If the UC2B project is funded by NTIA, CTC would work with our local IBEW Local 601 representatives to create a special apprentice program for this project and recruit apprentices from the low-income areas being served by our fiber-to-the-home project.

CTC, Inc. is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) that has served Central Illinois since 1984. CTC provides structured cabling, Internet connectivity, Digital and IP voice services.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 217-531-1000.

Sincerely,

Michael Hosier
President
Champaign Telephone Company

1300 S. Neil Street • Champaign, IL 61820
Phone (217)344-4444 • Fax (217)398-5923 • Toll Free (800)337-4282
www.ctc.biz



2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899
217/351-2200 • www.parkland.edu

August 10, 2009

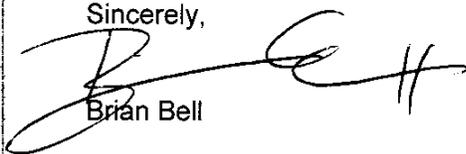
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to write in support of the UC2B project on behalf of the "Bridging the Digital Divide" Computer Technology Center at the Illinois Worknet Center in Champaign, Illinois. The Parkland College CSIT Department is a recipient of grant funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to bridge the digital divide in our community. We have established a workshop to educate students on current and new technology to increase job retention and employment probability. We have also established a team of volunteers who with donated computers set up and maintain satellite Computer Technology Centers in underserved areas of our community. Broadband will assist in this effort by having affordable high speed connection to connect to the rest of the world. The Broadband initiative will also assist greatly in having underserved access to the education and assistance needed to be competitive in the 21st Century.

It is our mission to reach out to members of our community who have little exposure to technology. The UC2B project will greatly assist our efforts in making our goals to educate, elevate our citizens to be more competitive in our new global digital age.

Sincerely,



Brian Bell



METCAD

Public Safety Through Quality Service

August 4, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

METCAD is the primary 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) serving Champaign County. METCAD was formed by Intergovernmental Agreement in 1979 and is governed by a multi-jurisdictional board consisting of the City of Champaign, City of Urbana, University of Illinois and Champaign County as well as representation from rural law enforcement agencies and volunteer fire departments.

In addition to being the primary 9-1-1 PSAP, METCAD also operates a county-wide digital 800 MHz trunked radio system which supports all public safety (law enforcement, fire & EMS) and the major public service agencies (public works, highway, U of I Utilities, etc.). This communications network provides full interoperability between all disciplines to support routine communications on a day-to-day basis as well as those during times of crisis or in support of homeland security operations.

The infrastructure of this radio network is comprised of 5 tower sites strategically located throughout the county. Connectivity to these towers is provided via a loop-design microwave network. The proposed Big Broadband project would allow METCAD to establish fully redundant connectivity to at least three tower sites to help keep the network operational in the event of a serious microwave disruption. Without the ability to partner with the Big Broadband project, it is unlikely that METCAD would be able to fund a reliable backup network such as that proposed by this project. This partnership would save taxpayers significant money while creating a much more reliable network.

METCAD supports the Big Broadband application and urges the review committee to approve it.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
METCAD 9-1-1 Coordinator

1905 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802 (217) 333-4348
FAX (217) 384-7003

www.metcad911.org



Urbana Fire Rescue Services

400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 384-2420
FAX (217) 384-2449

August 12, 2009

Lisa Bievenue
Project Coordinator and Proposal Development
Illinois Informatics Institute
251 GSLIS, MC493
501 E. Daniel
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Ms. Bievenue:

There Urbana Fire Department has looked in many different ways to improve services via computerization in our Fire Stations. Big Broadband may help us in delivering services much quicker. The Fire Department has discussed utilizing a municipal wireless network that would allow us to provide more efficient mobile services in our fire trucks.

Right now all fire trucks operate via cellular card to communicate with servers. Big Broadband may assist in making the dream of municipal wireless services a reality. As for my understanding it is a very quick and efficient service in providing internet services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Tony R. Foster", is written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Tony R. Foster
Division Chief
Prevention & Education

TRF:ct

**Carle Foundation Hospital**

611 West Park Street, Urbana, IL 61801-2595 Phone: (217) 383-3311

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP,

This letter provides me the opportunity to express Carle Foundation Hospital's support for the community broadband proposal "Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband, or UC2B" as a way of improving and enhancing high-speed Internet connections ("broadband") to key community institutions and to homes throughout our region. This project will ensure the building of a unified network of existing and planned public computing centers, bringing them to a technology standard including broadband, and providing local IT support.

Carle Foundation Hospital is the community's largest hospital and a regional referring center. We rely on the latest technology to improve patient care, increase efficiency, and attract new physicians and staff to this fine community. We see UC2B as a vital component to the local infrastructure and one that Carle can connect with to improve service to patients and the community.

We see on the horizon the need to share information with patients in their homes. In fact, many patients with chronic diseases are using web-based applications to help manage their health and communicate with their doctors. Physicians and management staff often require access to medical information from home, mobile devices, or at other off-site facilities. The nature of this information is often vital to patient care and requires large amounts of data to be exchanged. Expanded broadband capability throughout the community will allow fast transfer of these rich information files...large diagnostic images, motion video files, audio-visual files, and expansive patient education information just to name a few.

We view this project as a critical component to improving the community, growing economically, and expanding the flow of information and services throughout the area. We are pleased to offer our support of this project and encourage you to look favorably upon this project and grant the necessary matching funding to make it a reality.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions about Carle's support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Snyder".

John M. Snyder
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Carle Foundation Hospital
611 West Park Street
Urbana, IL 61801



Champaign County Health Care Consumers

44 East Main Street, Suite #208 • Champaign, IL 61820

Phone = (217) 352-6533 Fax = (217) 352-9745

Email = cchcc@healthcareconsumers.org Web = www.healthcareconsumers.org

Grassroots organizing for health care justice and access since 1977.

August 17, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of the Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. CCHCC is a citizen action organization, founded on the premise of participatory democracy and the belief that meaningful reforms in the health care system will come only with the active involvement of consumers. From its inception in 1977, CCHCC has organized to increase the influence of consumers who have traditionally been excluded from the health care decision-making process. CCHCC carries out its mission through consumer education, advocacy, and community organizing. We run adult dental care programs, a free Consumer Health Hotline, and the Medicare 100/Plus Program to make hospital health care services more affordable for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

We have an eleven-member board of directors, and a staff of seven, with many volunteers working on a dozen or so campaigns related to health care justice.

Our current technology use is limited by funding, although we have creatively leveraged our social networks to broaden our impact. For example, our Health Action Network (HAN) is dedicated to empowering and mobilizing consumers for system change through simple coordinated actions. HAN could be more effective if our participants had ready access to high-speed Internet and social networking tools that could multiply our message. The accompanying computing and training facilities proposed in this submission would enable more of our volunteers to participate in discussion forums, citizen health information sharing, and meetings. By having this infrastructure and the facilities and training to effectively use and sustain it, our community would better be able to address critical issues of health care.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Claudia Lennhoff

Claudia Lennhoff
Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Library and Information Science Building
501 East Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6211

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP,

I write with enthusiastic support for the community broadband proposal “Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband” (UC2B). I represent the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) and the Illinois Informatics Institute (I³), both at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These two entities will take the lead on the “above ground” UC2B proposals.

GSLIS is consistently ranked among the best library and information science school in the United States, and it supports four major research areas: Information History, Economics, and Policy; Information Retrieval and Digital Libraries; Librarianship and Literature for Youth; and Social Informatics. Research and engagement in the area of community informatics is a subset of the social informatics work at GSLIS.

I³ is an interdisciplinary initiative arising from the strategic plan of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, aimed at coordinating informatics-related research, service, and teaching activities across the campus. One of the campus-wide activities overseen by I³ (in cooperation with GSLIS) is the Community Informatics Initiative, which involves more than fifty faculty from more than twenty departments and provides funding for the development of research and teaching activities focused on the effective deployment of information technology in community settings. In addition, I³ runs a Corporate Roundtable that promotes collaboration between the University of Illinois and its corporate partners, with a focus on information science as applied to many different business activities, from knowledge management and social networking to mapping and modeling to information retrieval and preservation.

Both GSLIS and I³ recognize the value of a community-wide broadband network for research and public engagement. GSLIS has a significant history of community networking and outreach, having launched and maintained for nearly 20 years one of the first community networks, Prairienet, which is now incorporated into the Community Informatics Initiative. With a community-wide broadband service, we expect to enjoy many opportunities for participatory research, learning, and community development that contribute to improving life for our most vulnerable neighbors. Prairienet’s TOP grant gave us both a good start and lots of experience

with computer networking and training in partnership with low-income families and the organizations that serve them. We expect that this project will also reinforce the view of Champaign-Urbana as a high tech hub, which is likely to draw more business to the community and to the ^B Corporate Roundtable. In addition, Corporate Roundtable members are very likely to contribute to the business development component of the Sustainable Adoption effort.

We are convinced of the potential of UC2B and look forward to leveraging existing community partnerships as well as building new relationships, all of which will afford us many opportunities to study and answer significant questions about community networks and informatics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Unsworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Unsworth
Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Director, Illinois Informatics Institute

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Community Informatics Initiative

Graduate School of Library and Information Science
501 East Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6211



August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of the Community Informatics Initiative (CII) to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. CII is a research, teaching and public engagement center within the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. While we were only established in 2007, we emerged out of Prairienet and remain committed to its legacy of community partnerships around information and communication technologies. (Prairienet, now included in CII, was a freenet founded in 1993 to improve local information access in Champaign-Urbana and the east central Illinois.) Community informatics at Illinois prioritizes collaborations with marginalized communities to create solutions to the most serious crises threatening society as a whole: poverty, health, violence, and food security, for example. We have unique strengths and expertise that come from fifteen years of university-campus partnerships with people and organizations in north Champaign, East St. Louis, and Chicago. More recently we have partnered with organizations in rural Illinois and West Africa.

The 50 or so graduate students and nine faculty and staff of CII aim to increase literacy in the Internet age, promote equitable access to the means of digital production, and investigate communication policy. As a new program, we anticipate expanding and joining fully in the MAD Lab, broadband course offerings, and oversight of the various proposed public computing facilities.

By having this broadband infrastructure and the social networks to support it, critical understandings would develop not only of how communities access, create, organize and share information, but also the types and qualities of connections between and among communities. This funding would provide an incomparable opportunity for creative and ongoing uses of networks to build civic awareness and engagement toward the common good.

Thank you for the time and consideration you give to the UC2B proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Irish".

Sharon Irish, Ph.D.
Project Coordinator

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



August 10, 2009

Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to express my support for the UC2B broadband proposal coming forward from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Specific commitments of money, material, and personnel are documented in other letters, so my purpose here is to provide context on why it makes sense for our campus to lead this effort on behalf of the community.

As a research university, Illinois is justly proud of its history of innovation in developing cutting-edge technologies. We have been an international leader in the science and technology of electronic communication for as long as these research areas have been in existence.

As a land grant university, we have a deep heritage of serving community needs. The land-grant ideal, which strives to unite the public service mission of the university with its powerful research and teaching missions, has proven to be both sturdy and supple enough to master new challenges for a century and a half. But our new century requires yet new forms of engagement, and we must be ready to embrace them.

Our UC2B proposal creates an enormous opportunity to make full use of our technological capabilities in support of a project that promises to have a transformative effect on the Champaign-Urbana area. One powerful effect will be to stimulate the local economy through the creation of jobs necessary to implement and sustain this project. Even more important is the effect UC2B will have by creating high level computing capabilities for underserved, low-income areas in Champaign and Urbana. In turn, the project will not only enable the university to strengthen its fiber optic infrastructure, but will itself become a major research site for scholars and students who study the uses and effects of electronic communication and enhanced computing capacity for the people who engage them.

The goal of this project – to lay the foundation for a longer term project that would use high speed, fiber optic network to connect all homes, businesses, schools, libraries, churches and public buildings in Champaign and Urbana to a high-speed, fiber-optic network – is unthinkable without the kind of support being sought through the UC2B proposal.

Sincerely,

Robert Easter
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs Designate

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues:

I write this letter in support of the UC2B broadband application. In my capacity as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, I supervise a number of campus units currently involved in public engagement efforts. Some of those units are as follows: Dean of Students, Counseling Center, McKinley Health Center and the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations which covers the African American, La Casa Latina, Asian American, Native American cultural centers as well as the offices of LGBT and Women's Resources.

Each of the above units, in addition to working with students also works with families and youth in the local twin cities of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois. All of the units disseminate information to the local public as well as to students and staff. They utilize the internet heavily to share their information. Some examples of our current outreach activities include information sharing on physical and mental wellness issues, tutoring, and mentoring public school students, and information sharing on issues affecting the quality of life for campus students and community members. We also informally serve to provide information to the local community regarding how to create positive interactions between our student population and the local community.

One of the significant challenges for local community members is accessing the diverse and extensive knowledge base of the University of Illinois. Citizens are sometimes frustrated by the lack of a central point of contact when seeking interactions with specific campus units. Our division would utilize the proposed local computing labs as a means of communicating campus resources through a web site publicized at the local labs containing relevant outreach activities and information. With broadband service at the local labs, college students could work with youth in their own settings, thus enhancing their interactions. Some of our cultural centers also work with youth on producing their own media projects. Having access to high speed internet would greatly enhance and expand those efforts. Finally, we are able to connect the community with student volunteers who can assist in the various service sites. Most community mentoring or tutoring sites do not have high speed internet access and thus are not nearly as effective as they would be with such a service. We believe that this project would be a wonderful asset in the attempt of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs to continue its outreach to the local community.

For these reasons, I am pleased to provide my support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Renée Romano,
Vice Chancellor Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to explain our participation in UC2B.

First, some background information. Illinois Promise (I-Promise) is an access scholarship program for high achieving, low-income students at the University of Illinois. All key educational expenses are covered for these students and a community of support as well as enrichment programs is offered to help ensure their success. Launched in 2005 with a first cohort of 129 students, we are anticipating 700 students in AY 09/10. Each student has a family income that is at or below the poverty level. Other demographics include: approximately 75% of students are of color, 80% are first-generation college students, and 20% are legally independent. We're pleased that educational outcome data parallels or exceeds data for the general University of Illinois student population as a whole: four-year retention rate 82% v. 83%; four-year graduation rate 66% v. 66%; anticipated five-year graduation rate 85-90% v. 80%; application to graduate school 43% v. 34%. It is clear that if you give talented, deserving students without the financial means a chance to succeed, they will do just that. As one '09 I-Promise graduate wrote, "Many I-Promise students such as me realize the meaning of being given something. We optimize our experience with what we have, and we push to move beyond the ordinary, because we know the challenge is worth it." This student is now Vice President of Talent Management at AIESEC, a NGO in Oman.

There are three ways I-Promise students can contribute to and benefit by the UC2B initiative.

First, UC2B contemplates a computer lab. As it happens, I-Promise is exploring sources of funding for a laptop loan program. Approximately a quarter of our students do not own computers. In this regard, with laptop computers, we could establish a virtual computer lab that would help contribute to the success of this unique group of students on campus. Such computers might include software that enables access to the library, departmental educational software, and other University online resources. Limited Internet access is a particular concern these students have when they return to their home communities. It would be highly valuable if the virtual computer lab would also include portable Internet-enabled laptops that the I-Promise students take home during university breaks.

Second, I-Promise students are uniquely situated to volunteer for community outreach initiatives contemplated by the UC2B proposal. Ninety-nine percent of our I-Promise students reported volunteer service in a senior survey conducted earlier this year. Some will be from the Urbana-Champaign area and all will be able to relate to the needs of the more disadvantaged areas in the

community. We are committed to communicating UC2B community-engagement opportunities with the I-Promise population.

Third, there are certain to be some I-Promise students drawn to the Informatics minor and interested in community broadband as a subject of study. These students would represent a valuable addition to the core group of students providing student leadership for the UC2B initiative.

In addition to the specific ways in which I-Promise students can contribute to and benefit from UC2B, it is also possible that our collaboration will help make I-Promise visible to low-income, high school students who might not otherwise be aware of the support to low-income students available through the University of Illinois.

For all of these reasons, we are pleased to provide our enthusiastic support for this proposal.

Sincerely,



Susan Gershenfeld
Director, Illinois Promise Student Services

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**Office of Minority Student Affairs**

130 Turner Student Services Building, MC-306
610 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



President's Award Program
Educational Opportunities Program
Federal TRIO Programs

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunity Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support of the UC2B proposal.

I wish to pledge the support of the staff of the Office of Minority Student Affairs to help in the development and implementation of the UI broadband proposal. OMSA has existed on campus since 1968. We are responsible for providing leadership in developing, implementing and coordinating student support services and activities designed to assist underrepresented students' personal development, academic achievement, and graduation. The department serves African American, Latino/a, and Native American undergraduates, as well as students from all backgrounds who are admitted through programs such as the Educational Opportunities Program, the President's Awards Program, and the Liberal Arts and Sciences' Transition/Bridge Program.

Programs and units within OMSA include:

- The monitoring of underrepresented freshman progress which includes mentoring, encouragement, support, and information designed to help freshmen acclimate to the University, and to persist and achieve academic excellence. Graduate student counselors provide much of the monitoring. The main focus of the program, which is monitored by OMSA professionals, is to improve campus climate by making a large campus feel smaller, friendlier, and more manageable to first-year minority students through individual attention and assistance.
- The Academic Services Center, located on the east side of the quad, assists students in developing the confidence, independence, and active learning skills necessary to meet both the University's academic standards and students' individual educational goals. This skill development is facilitated directly through tutorials, structured study groups, review sessions, supplemental instruction, and study skills workshops as well as by mobilizing other campus and community resources.
- OMSA also coordinates the *McNair Scholars Program*, US. Department of Education-funded TRIO program, the goal of which is to increase the number of underrepresented minority students who pursue graduate study and enter careers as professors. Approximately 30% of the

Scholars plan to have careers in higher education; therefore, they are highly competent role models who can work with youth in the public schools as well as students on campus. We typically have 40 McNair Scholars (future faculty) each year; these are rising juniors and seniors who enjoy at least a GPA average of B. They complete ambitious research projects and present them each summer at the Annual McNair Symposium. Nearly 50% of the students work on campus helping others as employees or volunteers. Their technical skills are typical higher than other University of Illinois students.

- In addition, an assistant director advises the Minority Association of pre-health students (MAPS) that has a membership of more than one hundred students enrolled in science based curricula across the campus. We have advised this organization and its forerunners for more than thirty years; MAPS alumni are faculty members and medical professionals around the country. Another staff member advises the Minority Association of Future Attorneys (MAFA).

- Two other TRIO programs include *Project Upward Bound*, which has as its goal the placement of low-income and minority high school students into college, and *Student Support Services*, which provides intensive monitoring and academic services to 50 of the University's most at-risk students. A program in the Office of the Provost, the *Principal Scholars Program*, serves approximately one hundred local high school students on Saturdays in an academic and enrichment program throughout the year. Many of the students live in low-income households where technology is not available.

The above-described programs and services for undergraduates provide a large population of undergraduates, many of whom are both qualified and motivated to assist the youth of the local community with motivation and assistance with regular classroom instruction as well as enrichment activities such as learning to use digital resources.

In addition, the last bullet describes the type of structured assistance programs that already assist low-income and underrepresented students, but are nowhere near sufficient to serve the entire community. In fact, Parkland College's federal TRIO Educational Talent Search grant was defunded three years ago. The Educational Talent Search grant served 600 middle and high school students and provided basic skills, tutoring and preparation for college services, in a manner similar for what we do with our eighty Upward Bound high school students.

We would be very pleased to join in your efforts to create an UI Broadband supportive environment. The concept of "intentional engagement with technology" is a shared vision for developing the environment that our underrepresented students need. Between our joint efforts we can create the "push and pull" that is key in not only the recruitment, but the retention of talented students.

Grant funds are need for:

1. Providing local students with opportunities to learn 21st century skills in writing, multimedia, online publishing, and collaboration. Ms. Janice Mitchell, community parent liaison in Urbana public schools has been a volunteer in the school district in developing an after school