UC2B Executive Summary for K-12 Administrators
3/1/2010 – A. Bishop – DRAFT

Overview
Obama's stimulus package provides BTOP funding for bringing broadband (high speed internet) to underserved and vulnerable communities. There are 3 grants communities apply for:

- Infrastructure: Deliver broadband service to anchor institutions ('middle mile') and/or households ('last mile');
- Public Computing Centers (PCC): Extend public computer access and training at anchor institutions, especially community colleges and libraries;
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA): Innovative programs that support broadband demand (awareness, access, training, equipment, support) among vulnerable populations.

All of the grants are geared to improving economic development, healthcare, education, and public safety.

UC2B is a collaborative team led by UI and the cities of Urbana and Champaign. UC2B submitted proposal in all three categories for Round 1, but the PCC and SA proposals were rejected. UC2B is preparing revised proposals to submit in the 2d and final Round. The proposals are **due March 9** to UI grants and contracts. The federal BTOP deadline is March 15. Proposals require at least **20% direct or in-kind matc**h. Our request for state matching funds has already been submitted.

Public Computing Centers (PCC)
UC2B's PCC proposal funds **facilities, equipment and staff** to extend public-access computer sites in anchor institutions that serve vulnerable communities. Parkland College will maintain equipment and provide extensive training for older youth and adults at **12 PCCs** (IETC, Columbia, UFL, CPL, Douglass Library, Prairie School, Garden Hills School, Shadowwood, Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center, CPD Bresnan Center, Frances Nelson, Dorsey homes).

About **20 other locations** will receive 1-4 computers and will be served by targeted workshops for their patrons.

New **construction** related to public computing is expected at Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, Columbia school building, and the Douglass Library.

Parkland will deliver multi-tiered programs that provides an **educational and workforce pipeline** for: community members for personal learning; certificates for teachers, lab monitors, and cybernavigators who train and assist community members and organizations; certificates for other computer workforce specializations; associate degrees in computing from Parkland; entry into informatics programs at UI. Priority for all these jobs and educational opportunities will be given to local residents from underserved communities.

Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

UC2B's plan for sustainable adoption hinges on a staffing plan that includes both new hires and support for existing staff in local anchor institutions.

Four SBA coordinators (in Healthcare, K-12 Education, Higher Ed, and Economic Development with be hired whose job is to identify needs and develop innovative programs to meet needs, stimulate demand, and sustain broadband use among underserved residents.

Champaign and Urbana **Neighborhood Services Department**s will maintain a public **HelpDesk** and hire and manage a cadre of **cybernavigators** who will serve as staff assigned to the HelpDesk, to deliver workshops, and offer consulting and support for community-based broadband initiatives.

Anchor institutions will have support to allow their existing staff to actively participate in UC2B. **For the school districts, this might mean buying out a portion of IT or Community Liaison staff members' time, or hiring a new person.**

UC2B will also support a **partners network** for communication, expertise and idea sharing, and collaboration among all UC2B participants (via monthly meetings, a newsletter, mailing lists, etc.)

K-12 Agenda

We identified several models of what is working well to extend K-12 educational support, with digital resources, in CU underserved communities:

• Access: A system of public computing centers in those locations where families already go, with several additional sites needed, that includes public schools along with libraries, neighborhood community centers, and other educational centers.

• Basic Concept: Public computing centers with resources and services that emphasize K-12 educational support but are also integrated with other tools, services, and activities that would draw families in and maximize use.

• Content: A web portal customized for local families that would include K-12 educational resources. Also needed is ready access to a Family Information System to identify other locally available resources to support local families with limited income (directory of social services, health and parenting info and services, food banks, non-profit retail outlets, workforce development and job support, etc.). Another needed directory is of public computing resources themselves Core content should be available in English and Spanish, at minimum.

For Further Information

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