



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,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Michael Hosier".

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

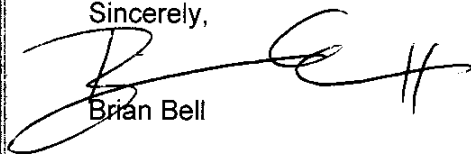
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Colleagues:

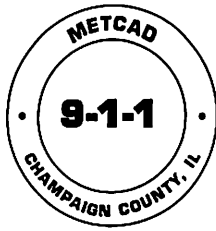
I am pleased to write in support of the UC2B project on behalf of the "Bridging the Digital Divide" Computer Technology Center at the Illinois Worknet Center in Champaign, Illinois. The Parkland College CSIT Department is a recipient of grant funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic 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, circular stamp or watermark.

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 black ink, reading "John M. Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 I³ 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 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, appearing to read '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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert Easter'.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renée Romano".

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Gershenfeld".

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 typically 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

OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

3

technology program for low-income and minority youth. She and others in the district conducted a fourteen week Introductory to Computers pilot during 08-09, but there were no personnel funds available to continue the program.

2. Purchasing up-to-date technology equipment: Very few of the children have computers at home, according to assistant superintendent Gayle Jeffries. "We have computer labs in all of the elementary schools; however, the computer hardware is old and the kids need training..."

▪An example of an activity is a Photo Essay unit that will allow for students to learn to use digital cameras to communicate about topics that matter to them under the guidance of an educational mentor assigned by the University in collaboration with the school district.

3. We propose that one emphasis be upon helping young students to learn research skills. They will be guided by McNair Scholars and other college students that will be jointly trained by University staff and school district personnel. Furthermore, this model can also be expanded into the Champaign Unit 4 School District. We have three computer labs in our department, but our computers are three years old.

Besides providing an eager and talented array of undergraduate tutors and mentors, other ways in which OMSA can contribute:

▪We have staff members who have several years of experience teaching technology.

▪Connections with the Urbana, Champaign and Rantoul public schools through our 42 year old Upward Bound Program. We serve more than eighty 9th through 12th graders annually through a year round program and an intensive comprehensive eight week summer program. UB provides an excellent organizational structure that could be greatly enlarged and expanded under this grant.

▪OMSA will assist in identifying recent minority graduates who can serve as professional mentors.

Finally, I am willing to join an oversight committee to assist in evaluating your program. I was a Microsoft Mentor for ten years through a partnership with the U.S Department of Education and the University of Washington. Please let me know if I can provide any additional support.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Jeffries,
Associate Dean of Students and
Director Minority Student Affairs and
Federal TRIO Programs



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

August 3, 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 Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) Department at Parkland College. The Parkland CSIT Department offers degrees in several IT areas, including Networking, Digital Media, Database Development, Software Development, and Office Professional. Our graduates are highly skilled individuals who are hired for internships leading to permanent employment with local small, mid-size, and large companies, such as Volition, Precision Graphics Services, Wolfrem Research, Frasca International, Motorola, Simplified Computing, Area Wide Technologies, Carle Clinic and Hospital, Christie Clinic, the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Communication Data Group, Archer Daniels Midland, and many others.

Parkland is actively involved in reaching out to minority and under-represented individuals in an attempt to narrow the digital divide for these populations. We have received grants from NSF, AT&T/Ameritech, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the development and implementation of educational models and programs to recruit, train, and help develop job skills for under-represented populations in information technology fields. We have collaborated with many local organizations, such as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club, and the Urban League of Champaign County, to provide workshops/training in IT to those members of the Champaign-Urbana community that have very little knowledge of digital technology.

It is our mission and passion to reach out to members of our community who have little exposure to technology. It is our hope that the educational and training models we have developed and implemented in the community will be fully utilized. The UC2B project will help make that vision a reality by allowing us to bring enhanced learning opportunities to individuals we often are unable to serve using traditional educational methodologies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas R. Ramage". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Thomas R. Ramage, Ed.D.
President

UC2B Last Mile 12.01-2

| Infrastructure Funds | Year 0 | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | |
| Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate) | | | | | | | | | \$1,440,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Funds | | | | | | | | | 4.62% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entities Passed & % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households | | | | | | | | | 530 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Households | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Businesses | | | | | | | | | 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic institutions | | | | | | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Institutions | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Census Blocks included: 12.01-2
 Total service area Households: 530
 Total Service Area Businesses: 19
 Total Service Area Strategic Institutions: 0

Total FTTH Budget: \$12,000,000
 Total Budget for SA: \$1,440,000
 Total MM Budget \$31,200,000

UC2B Last Mile 9.01-3

| Infrastructure Funds | Year 0 | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | |
| Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate) | | | | | | | | | \$1,800,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Funds | | | | | | | | | 5.77% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entities Passed & % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households | | | | | | | | | 700 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Households | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses | | | | | | | | | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Businesses | | | | | | | | | 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic institutions | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Institutions | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Census Blocks included: 9.01-3
 Total service area Households: 700
 Total Service Area Businesses: 25
 Total Service Area Strategic Institutions: 2

Total FTTH Budget: \$12,000,000
 Total Budget for SA: \$1,800,000
 Total MM Budget \$31,200,000

UC2B Last Mile Main Champaign

| Infrastructure Funds | Year 0 | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | |
| Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate) | | | | | \$2,736,000 | | | | \$2,064,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Funds | | | | | 8.77% | | | | 6.62% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entities Passed & % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households | | | | | 1065 | | | | 803 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Households | | | | | 57% | | | | 43% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses | | | | | 0 | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Businesses | | | | | | | | | 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic institutions | | | | | 0 | | | | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Institutions | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Census Blocks included: 2/1, 2/2, 7/1, 7/3

Total service area Households: 1868

Total Service Area Businesses: 68

Total Service Area Strategic Institutions: 11

Total FTTH Budget: \$12,000,000

Total Funds for SA: \$4,800,000

Total MM Budget \$31,200,000

UC2B Last Mile Main Urbana

| Infrastructure Funds | Year 0 | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | |
| Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate) | | | | | \$1,710,000 | | | | \$1,290,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Funds | | | | | 5.48% | | | | 4.13% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entities Passed & % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households | | | | | 675 | | | | 509 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Households | | | | | 57% | | | | 43% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses | | | | | 0 | | | | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Businesses | | | | | | | | | 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic institutions | | | | | 0 | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Institutions | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Census Blocks included: 53-1, 53-2, 53-5, 54-5

Total service area Households: 1184

Total Service Area Businesses: 76

Total Service Area Strategic Institutions: 5

Total FTTH Budget: \$12,000,000

Total Funds for SA: \$3,000,000

% Total Funds: 25%

Total MM Budget \$31,200,000

Attachment B – Proposed Middle Mile Service Offerings



The UC2B Middle Mile Service Offerings will be the same throughout the Service Area

| Service Offering | Distance Band or Point to Point | Ethernet Port Speed (Mbps) | Minimum Peak Load Network Capacity (Mbps) | Monthly Pricing | Other |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| UC2B Community Network Service (CNS) Connection 100 Mbps Port | Any point on the UC2B MM Network | 100 | 10,000 | \$19.99 | Critical Institutions Only |
| UC2B Community Network Service (CNS) Connection 1 Gbps Port | Any point on the UC2B MM Network | 1,000 | 10,000 | \$39.99 | Critical Institutions Only |
| Private VLAN Connection 10 Mbps Port | Any point on the UC2B MM Network | 10 | 10,000 | \$100 | No CIR or VLAN Charge |
| Private VLAN Connection 100 Mbps Port | Any point on the UC2B MM Network | 100 | 10,000 | \$400 | No CIR or VLAN Charge |
| Private VLAN Connection 1 Gbps Port | Any point on the UC2B MM Network | 1,000 | 10,000 | \$1,200 | No CIR or VLAN Charge |

Anchor Institutions can acquire their Internet connectivity via the Middle Mile Network. The difference in port speeds would affect only their community network connectivity, not the Internet bandwidth available to them.

Organizations can purchase Layer 2 transport (VLAN) from any location on any ring to one or more locations on any ring by paying only for the WDM-PON port charges indicated above.

All core elements of the network are non-blocking and are interconnected at 10 Gbps.

Question 22 – Middle Mile Service Offerings

There will be a full compliment of services provided by UC2B - traditional Internet services, private VLAN services and dark fiber services. Each type of service meets a different need in the community and without providing all three, not all of the community's needs can be met.

For a minimum of the first five years of operations, the UC2B Consortium will deliver the UC2B Community Network Service (CNS), which will offer public Internet access to libraries, hospitals, educational institutions and public safety agencies at economical rates. The Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has agreed to provide \$60,000 a year for 5 years to be used to purchase one Gbps worth of public Internet bandwidth. His letter making this pledge is page 24 in the collection of letters attached to this application for Question 41.

UC2B CNS will provide public Internet access to the 2,500 underserved households in our Last Mile FTTH pilot project and also to the 137 Critical Institutions that we seek to connect to the UC2B Middle Mile network.

Free bandwidth does not equate to free service, but having the Vice Chancellor's commitment for five years has allowed us to be very aggressive in our pricing of the UC2B CNS. In doing so, we anticipate that the CNS adoption rate among FTTH households, libraries, hospitals, educational institutions and public safety agencies will be high, which in turn, strengthens the sustainability of this network as well as the other UC2B projects.

The UC2B backbone rings have been carefully planned to accommodate very short lateral fiber builds to the greatest number of schools, public safety and medical facilities. In creating the pricing and service plans, and fiber ring design, the objective was to maximize the participation of "Critical Institutions" on the UC2B network.

We encourage UC2B CNS subscribers to fully leverage the available bandwidth in lawful ways. Over the initial five years, we project that we have enough bandwidth to afford us time to build a sufficient subscriber base that will in turn sustain the service beyond five years.

The UC2B Middle Mile network is also about providing business services. There is no differentiation in our wholesale ISP rates between residential and business subscribers. They all utilize the same WDM-PON network architecture, and whether a business or a homeowner wants a 100 Mbps or a 1 Gbps connection to the network, the wholesale ISP rates are the same for both.

The UC2B network will also offer managed Private VLAN (layer 2) services as well. Should a medical group with multiple facilities in the community want a secure and private link between their facilities, they will be able to purchase an aggressively priced layer-2 transport VLAN. The charges will be determined by the port speed of each

location connected to the VLAN, but there will be no Committed Information Rate (CIR) charges. The entire UC2B network backbone is non-blocking, so if two medical facilities need to make a large data transfer between them and each have a 100 Mbps port, they would realized almost that full 100 Mbps bandwidth. Transmission protocol overheads keep the full speed of a port from ever being realized, but nothing on the UC2B network would slow the transfer down.

As was mentioned in the previous section, our three local library branches will use UC2B "dark fiber" to connect to the regional library system where their circulation transactions are processed. Both Urbana and Champaign will also utilize UC2B "dark fiber" to connect their various public safety and administrative facilities to each other as well.

Finally, a local service provider - Champaign Telephone Company (CTC)) has invested in UC2B by committing to purchase dark fiber that will be used to connect many of their customers to Internet and phone services provided by CTC. Once connected to UC2B fiber, many of their customers will go from T-1 connections that do not meet their needs to 100 Mbps or 1 Gbps connections that promise to meet their needs for years to come.

UC2B will make ISP, layer-2 or dark fiber services available to any organization for any lawful purpose.

Christopher Skaar

Chris Skaar has been in the IT industry for 11 years beginning his career as a desktop support technician for Gateway 2000 Inc., which provided a foundation of customer service and troubleshooting skills. In 1999, he moved to a consulting company which, through a series of mergers, became a part of McLeodUSA. Through this company, he continued to provide a high level of 24/7 on-site technical support for companies in the Midwest. He provided hardware and software support for servers running the Microsoft and Novell operating systems as well as LAN/WAN networking equipment support.

In 2001, Chris began working for CITES on the Champaign-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. His work in the CITES Operations Center and Network Design Office gave him valuable technical and project management skills as well as insight into the running of a large research network

In 2004 Chris was asked to take on the role of Service Manager for two services provided by CITES: Iris and Lens. Iris is a tool used to manage network equipment and Lens is a collection of harvesters that gather network statistics and store them in a database, from which IT Professionals on campus can glean valuable information about their networks. As service manager, he was tasked with gathering requirements and guiding the design of these tools to fit the needs of the myriad of different departments on campus. He continues in this role.

In 2004 Chris earned a position with the CITES Network Support Group. The main focus of this group is hands-on troubleshooting and support of the University of IL campus building and core networking equipment. This includes nearly 75,000 access ports, 2500 wireless access points, the campus backbone hardware and the facilities that support this equipment. Soon after joining the Network Support group, he was tasked with upgrading the power infrastructure in the core node facilities. He researched, designed and oversaw the installation of new distribution panels, power circuits, power distribution units, and UPSs for 6 core network nodes.

In 2006 Chris was asked to serve as lead optical engineer for the ICCN (Inter Campus Communications Network) network. This position is responsible for ensuring day-to-day operation and 24/7 technical support of a 565 mile WDM (Wavelength-Division Multiplexing) ring connecting the 3 University of IL campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. This network has 17 sites around the state with 9 of these sites being add/drop points. The network provides multiple 10Gb Ethernet connections connecting the 3 campuses and several research networks running over multiple WDM wavelengths. To facilitate this role, he has attended multiple classes focused on operation and maintenance of WDM technology and is proficient with a variety of optical test equipment as well as analyzers measuring performance across a 10Gbps network. He continues to fill this role and to this date, there has been no unscheduled downtime on this network.

In 2008, Chris became the Team Lead for the CITES network support group tasked with day-to-day management of the 7-member team. He also acts as the Tech lead for the group, tasked with providing technical leadership for the networking division of CITES. He continues in this role to this date.

For the UC2B Consortium Chris will serve on the Implementation and Operations teams.

Nick Buraglio

Nick Buraglio has been in the Networking and Security industry for 12 years, working with high visibility and zero-downtime networks ranging from fortune 500 companies to regional broadband Internet service providers as well as large, cutting edge research networks operating across the country serving scientists and researchers internationally.

Having worked rebuilding an aging Internet provider from the ground up, coordinating or performing everything from construction phase to protocol implementation and security policy lends a very unique skill set that is well suited for service provisioning, design and implementation. During this tenure (2000-2002), the internet provider in question relocated to a new facility, tripled in capacity and customer base and expanded into two new markets.

Participating in working groups designing and maintaining prominent networks such as the TeraGrid (2002-2008), I-Wire (2002-2008) projects and SCinet (2003, 2005, 2006) as well as the campus networks for National Center for Supercomputing Applications (2002-2008) and University of Illinois (2008-Current) as well as the InterCampus Communication Network also provides a very uncommon perspective and expertise, also well suited for broad scoped, high visibility projects.

Buraglio has also worked with such agencies as the Federal Bureau of Investigation on security related matters, training of Regional Cyber Action Team (RCAT) members on network based security threats and has been held a clearance at the DoJ Top Secret level.

Buraglio is also an active contributor to open source projects such as pfSense, a UNIX based firewall appliance.

Operating from these strengths, Buraglio will provide a distinct skill set to the design, operation and security of the UC2B project. Building on past experience and current research into market and technology, Buraglio will contribute to the architecture and implementation of the UC2B network, and its associated services and security.

Ryan Harden

Ryan received a Bachelors of Science in 'Network and Communications Management' from Devry University in 2004. Through his college career Ryan held the position of 'IT Support' at Flexlink Systems in Lisle, IL. His duties included day-to-day IT support as well as LAN/WAN support. During his tenure, Ryan designed, orchestrated, and implemented the move of all IT resources from one Chicago area suburb to the existing new building.

In 2004, Ryan joined the University of Illinois as a Network Designer. In 2005, he stepped into the Network Engineering group, where he assists in the design and support of UIUCnet, the campus backbone network. UIUCnet serves more than 350 campus buildings including roughly 2000 network switches and routers.

Since joining Network Engineering, Ryan has been involved in the designing and implementing of two revisions of the campus backbone as well as many special purpose networks. He also designed the campus wide anycast DNS deployment. Ryan is the project lead for IPv6 deployment on campus. IPv6 is supported on all backbone devices and plans are underway to connect all buildings with IPv6 as soon as devices are upgraded to support it. Ryan also has taken the lead on all WAN related support and design. Ryan supports the campus BGP routers and works to negotiate Peering arrangements as well as any issues that might arise with external connectivity. This includes connectivity to the University's ICCN network.

Ryan also serves as the Lead Network Engineer for the University of Illinois owned Inter-Campus Communications Network (ICCN). The ICCN consists of over 565 miles of fiber creating a ring between the three University of Illinois campuses in Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield. DWDM technology is used to provide several 10Gbps connections between each of the campuses. Ryan designed and supports the Layer3 hardware that provides MPLS, BGP, and transport services between all three campuses. The ICCN visits major peering hubs and provides redundant 10Gbps connections to the national research and education networks Internet2, NLR, MREN, and ESnet to all University of Illinois entities. The ICCN serves as the primary ISP access for the Urbana and Springfield campuses and backup for the Chicago campus.

Ryan's experience in these roles will be a valuable asset to UC2B. His skills will ensure that UC2B has a solid foundation on which to provide high speed and reliable service to all customers.

Josh Reeley

Josh Reeley has been working with computer networks since he was a junior in High School when he first started in the Cisco Networking Academy. The Academy was offered through his High School in cooperation with Parkland Community College. That summer he was hired on at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign for an internship with the Network Design Office. During that internship he documented much of the campus network infrastructure both physically and logically, a job that entailed visiting nearly 150 buildings.

Josh went on to college at Eastern Illinois University where he graduated in 2005 majoring in Computer Information Systems. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business with focuses in Client/Server Programming and Telecommunications. Since graduation he has worked for the University of Illinois in the Network Design Group.

Josh's primary job in the Network Design group is to be a consultant and project manager of full building network upgrades/replacements. A network replacement can take six months to a year to plan and execute. A large part of the process is project management and coordinating with different trades like drafting engineers, electricians, cable pullers and even network device vendors. During his time at the University of Illinois he has designed and built over 20 building networks with an average host count about 400 per building. Since 2008 Josh has been the Technical Lead for his group, which has him evaluating new networking products and technologies as well as offering technical advice to his group when needed.



Randy Hall

Randy acquired an Associate's Degree in Electronic Engineering at Parkland College in August 1982.

In 1984, Randy became a Telecommunications Project Manager for the University of Illinois. He solicited bids to replace the Illinois Bell Telephone service to a University owned system. Illinois Bell Telephone was awarded the contract and construction started in 1986. The network consisted of 103 manholes and a concrete encased conduit plant. New telephone service to over 300 buildings and multi-mode fiber optic cables were placed.

In 1995, Randy was promoted to Assistant Plant Engineering Manager. He assisted the plant engineering manager with the design and construction of new telecommunications facilities to new University buildings and the remodeling of existing buildings.

In 2001, Randy became the Plant Engineering Manager. As plant manager, Randy continues to design, create specifications, award contracts, oversee the construction and create as-built records for all telecommunication projects. Randy led the recent effort to install a single mode fiber optic network to all major campus buildings. Randy also manages an annual budget for outside plant infrastructure improvements that exceeds \$900,000.

Randy's technical, organizational and management skills will prove a valuable asset to the UC2B Physical Plant team.

Brian Cockerham

Brian launched his career at the University of Illinois in 1992 when he served as a Telecommunication Network Specialist. He surveyed and coordinated voice, local area networks (LAN) and fiber optic projects. In 1994, Brian expanded his role to include coordinating multiple projects and supervising staff responsible for support of the campus telecommunications and data distribution systems.

In 1996, Brian shifted his focus to engineering thereby coordinating the engineering of the campus telecommunications and data distribution systems. Brian designed new construction and preventative maintenance planning. He maintained current plant drawings and automated computer aided drafting (CAD) records, and prepared planning documents for future projects and capacity.

In 2000, Brian was promoted to Assistant Telecommunications Manager. He continues managing the engineering and overall construction of the campus telecommunications distribution systems, has. Brian also assists in the management of the CITES Plant Design Staff.

Brian's wide range of skills and experiences equips him to serve as a vital technical resource on the UC2B Physical Plant team.

Robert C. Miles, Jr.

Bob Miles has over thirty (30) years experience in outside plant construction in the communications field. He has managed multiple projects with responsibilities including design, permitting, budget allocation, hiring, personnel supervision and final project reconciliation.

In 1992 he managed a rebuild of approximately 350 miles of aerial plant for CATV in Decatur, IL. This task was completed within the targeted time frame of two (2) years and within budget. Bob's responsibilities during this project included design approval; supervision of construction, splicing, activation and testing crews; tracking and approval of daily billing; handling any public or governmental questions or problems to a satisfactory conclusion; and liaison with local power and telephone entities.

While employed by McLeodUSA, Bob managed the new build of fiber optics in the following locations:

1. Decatur, IL – Built fiber from McLeodUSA to Ameritech's central offices and AT&T. The build included five (5) city rings and completion of McLeodUSA's network backbone.
 2. Bloomington, IL – Built a six (6) mile city ring to three (3) GTE and one (1) AT&T central office. Built a lateral into Illinois State University for ICN.
 3. Springfield, IL – Built fifteen (15) miles of fiber and copper rings for home and business subscribers. Built ring and lateral into Ameritech Cellular.
 4. Champaign, IL – Built ten (10) miles of fiber and copper rings to serve ONU's located on customer premises.
 5. St. Louis, MO – Built five (5) miles of fiber rings in downtown St. Louis to serve the Verizon Cellular switch site.
 6. Peoria, IL – Built a fiber ring into Verizon Cellular. Built a fiber ring to serve US Cellular MTSO.
 7. Macomb, IL – Built a lateral into Western Illinois University for ICN.
 8. Quincy, IL – Built a lateral into the community college for ICN.
- Multiple locations in Illinois – Built laterals to TCI Cable and MediaCom.

On the above projects Bob was responsible for the hiring and management of contractors, the building of laterals into phone company locations, coordination with municipalities and local utilities, monitoring work performed and checking billing for accuracy.

While at McLeodUSA Bob also was responsible for all fiber maintenance over \$10,000, including relocations and upgrades, and small customer building entrances in Illinois and Missouri.

The logo for UC2B is contained within a blue-bordered square. At the top, the text "UC2B" is written in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized orange graphic consisting of a large rectangle with a smaller rectangle inside it. The inner rectangle is divided into three horizontal sections by two lines, and its left and right sides are also defined by lines, creating a grid-like structure.

UC2B

Urbana-Champaign
Big Broadband -
Below Ground

Team Resumes

Team Summary

The UC2B Technical Team has subject matter experts whose skills range from a working knowledge of large construction projects to a thorough understanding of provisioning a service on a Layer 2 device port.

The UC2B Technical Team has a wealth of demonstrated experience with fiber optical network projects. The depth of expertise is reflected by the expansive network projects, including the Inter-Campus Communications Network (ICCN), which is the fiber network connecting the three University of Illinois campuses. Critical organizational skills complement the technical mastery required to maintain a large University campus network.

The University's excellence at networking was recognized in December of 2008, when PC Magazine and the Princeton review named the Urbana-Champaign campus the #1 most wired University in the Country.



Michael K. Smeltzer

Mike is the Director of Networking on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. He is the architect of the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) concept and is one of the co-authors of the trio of UC2B BTOP proposals. He directs the University's team of networking specialists that have designed and will build and operate the UC2B Middle Mile and WDM-PON Last Mile networks.

Prior to rejoining the University in 2005, Mike was a local Operations Manager for McLeodUSA, a competitive local exchange carrier. In that role, he designed and oversaw the installation and operation of an \$8 million fiber-to-the-multiple-dwelling-unit (FTT-MDU) project for McLeodUSA that at one time served upwards of 12,000 students in private off-campus housing with fiber-based voice and Internet services.

In his current role at the University, he oversees a staff of 25 networking specialists who maintain and continually upgrade wired and wireless networks in more than 300 buildings providing more than 70,000 wired Ethernet ports and more than 2,500 wireless access points. He was instrumental the University's expansion of wireless services both to end-users and as a way of economically providing bandwidth to small campus buildings that are far from the campus fiber infrastructure.

His staff also operates a 40-channel capable 10-gigabit DWDM fiber network that connects the University's three campuses to each other, to Internet 2 and to other peering partners in Chicago.

While his staff did all the work, he takes pride in PC Magazine's December 2008 ranking of the Urbana-Champaign campus as the #1 most wired campus in America.

In the early days of the Internet, Mike founded and grew a local ISP that was eventually sold and became part of Earthlink. He has previously served twice on the University's faculty.

For the UC2B Consortium, Mike will lead the networking team and be a member of the technical management team.



Frederick J. Halenar

Fred holds Associate and Bachelor degrees in Information Sciences. He has also completed some course work related to a Master's degree in Information Sciences.

Fred has over 37 years experience involving project and executive management of information technologies in the public sector. Experiences include overseeing multi-million dollar software solutions and building needed network infrastructure to delivery services to the end-users. One larger project included managing a million dollar building remodeling project of the City Hall that required the relocation of the data center. This project was challenged by the need to coordination multiple contractors and services.

Fred is responsible for planning, implementing, and maintaining technology, including telecommunications, audio/visual, data technologies and applications; establishing and monitoring adherence to system procedures and standards; and overseeing the operation, maintenance, back up, and disaster recovery of technologies City-wide. Responsible for policy related to telecommunications, data, web, and CGTV (channel 5). Responsibilities also include project management, emergency planning, contracting services, end-user support services, and supervising staff.

Fred has experience with infrastructure work, which includes the development of fiber optic networking specifications. Technical specifications included incorporating the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and City Code for roadway and right-of-way requirements. This work included both the inside and outside electronic component requirements. Experience also includes the creation of legal documents and contracts to implement fiber optic infrastructure-based projects.

Fred's professional experiences include working in cooperation with other government and private agencies. The most recent experience was the formation of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consortium that has now been in operation for the last 8 years. Work included the creation of an intergovernmental agreement and chairing both the technical and policy committees of the Consortium.

Fred possesses a unique portfolio of knowledge, skills and experience that will provide valuable guidance to the UC2B technical team.

William H. DeJarnette

Bill is the IS Manager for the City of Urbana. A graduate of the University of Illinois he obtained his Bachelors in Accountancy in 1976 and is a registered Certified Public Accountant. He oversees the software development for the City financial packages and the joint Police Records System for Urbana, Champaign and the University of Illinois.

Over the last five years Bill has worked with a number of governmental units including Champaign County, Urbana School District, Urbana Free Library, Cunningham Township and ILEAS to bring fiber connectivity to these entities. Bill architected the design, bid the projects and provided daily point contact.

Bill has worked in IT for over 30 years and public sector for 22 years. Current routine responsibilities encompass everything from managing a TV station to providing for the ongoing IT needs of a typical city. This includes the evaluation and monitoring of security procedures, provision of support services, establishment and implementation of long term operational goals, Web design and maintenance, and document management.

Bill has worked with CUWiN to provide expanded wireless in downtown Urbana and in 2008 received a small state grant to push wireless out into the community.

Bill recently made a presentation to the Illinois Century Network Policy Board on methodologies to provide fiber at reduced costs to communities and discussed how smaller communities can leverage those techniques to take advantage of ICN's offerings. He works with a number of organizations and was involved in the creation of the Champaign County Geographic Information Systems Consortium. He has chaired the technical committee and sits on the policy committee.

Bill's background in Finance, software development including billing systems, and fiber installation projects will provide him with the experience necessary to be a member of the technical management team.

Tracy L. Smith

Tracy holds a Master's degree in Computer Science and has over 10 years of experience in networking and IT service support. In 1999, Tracy was a Technology Consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education where she supported over 700 end-users and maintained over 200 servers. She developed and maintained a Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution for renewal of teacher certifications from Regional Offices of Education locations across the state.

In 2001, Tracy joined the Illinois Century Network (ICN), which is an ISP serving K-12 schools and non-profit entities in Illinois. She provided tier 3 WAN support for southern Illinois regions and Chicago. She co-designed a statewide VPN solution that met rigorous requirements of state agencies, like Illinois State Police, Department of Family Services, and Illinois Department of Transportation.

Her role expanded to technical lead for many projects including the centralization of state agency data centers. She designed the data center network, specified network equipment to purchase and built the configurations to support hundreds of servers in an efficient, redundant, secure, and highly available environment.

In 2007, Tracy joined the University of Illinois as the Operations Manager for the Inter-Campus Communications Network (ICCN), a University-owned fiber network connecting its three campuses. Under her guidance, ICCN engineers design, implement and support valuable resources like Internet access and 10Gbps access to major research networks, like Internet2, MREN, ESnet, and others. They also ensure that the ICCN maintains 100% backbone up-time.

In 2008, Tracy expanded her role to Network Services Manager. Her group oversees campus-wide services like Domain Name Service (DNS), IP-based security cameras, and digital signage,

Tracy continues to represent the University on task forces, like Illinois Rural Health Network, Illinois Broadband Council, FTTH Council, Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Network and IT councils, and ICN's Advanced Engineering Task force.

In addition to working closely with the co-authors of the trio of UC2B BTOP proposals, she oversees the daily operations of the engineering staff who have designed and will construct the UC2B network. Her broad technical experience coupled with her management skills and desire to develop broadband in areas where it's lacking, will equip her to serve on the UC2B technical team.



Aaron Brown

In addition to completing a degree in Telecommunications Technology, with certification in Outside Plant, Aaron has over 14 years of experience working in Telecommunications at the University of Illinois. During his employment at the University he has worked on a variety of projects and has helped build the Illinois network from a few thousand connections to nearly 75,000 access layer ports and more than 2500 wireless access points. These and other accomplishments are highlighted in the follow paragraphs.

His experience with UIUCnet, the Illinois campus data network, began in 1994 as an intern installing, terminating and certifying copper and fiber optic infrastructure in various campus buildings. From there he returned after graduation and in Dec. of 1995 moved to the support group responsible for the support of UIUCnet, including provisioning, testing and troubleshooting. He continues in this role today with expanded responsibilities that began in May of 2001 with management of the support group, and in Feb. 2008 with the management of the combined Network Design and Support Group. The combined group numbers 14 FTE's and 1 PTE and is responsible for the design, support, research and testing of the nearly 75,000 access ports on the UIUCnet building networks, over 2500 wireless access points, support of the campus backbone hardware and the facilities that house this equipment, including UPS, A/C, generators, etc.

Beginning in 1998 and continuing until presently, Aaron has provided technical management/administration of URHnet (University Residence Hall Network). This network is a partnership with campus Housing and provides Ethernet connectivity to over 5600 rooms and 10,000+ systems in our campus residence halls. Aaron is currently working with the design team and Housing to expand wireless coverage in the residence halls as an enhancement to their networking experience.

In early 2006 Aaron was asked to serve on the technical support team for a new project to connect the three University of Illinois campuses via an optical ring and continues in this role today. This network known as the ICCN (Inter Campus Communications Network) is a DWDM based optical network consisting of over 565 miles of fiber, touching 17 points with add/drop facilities in 9 of those 17. The network provides multiple 10Gbps Ethernet connections to each campus as well as 10Gbps peering connections with major research entities and other Big Ten Universities. As part of the support team for this network Aaron has attended multiple fiber classes focusing on WDM technology, became proficient in a variety of optical test equipment specific to WDM, 10Gbps performance testing/verification and management of network that experience no unscheduled down time in over two years of operation.

For the UC2B Consortium, Aaron will serve on the Implementation and Operations teams.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

Applicants should review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying."

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.


Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

| | |
|--|--|
| NAME OF APPLICANT Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois | AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME UC2B |
| PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE Walter K. Knorr, Comptroller | |
| SIGNATURE  | DATE 08/19/2009 |



August 10, 2009

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

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of 90.1 WEFT, a community radio station, to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project.

WEFT-FM is a non-commercial radio station locally owned by Prairie Air, Incorporated, a not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to provide the diverse communities of radio listeners in East Central Illinois an accessible, responsible, and responsive radio alternative.

We are a primarily volunteer organization struggling to find our space in the evolving media environment. Improved access to high-speed Internet and the accompanying computing and training facilities proposed in this submission would support us in a number of our activities and goals, such as:

- live webstreaming of our programming
- downloading content from music and informational content providers (which is becoming increasingly prevalent, as many of our content providers move away from providing physical media, such as CDs)
- supporting archiving and on-demand provision of our original content to others
- using social networking to communicate with our listeners and supporters.

By having this infrastructure and the technical support for it, WEFT would be better able to serve the needs of our community.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Dossett".

Raeann Dossett
Chair, WEFT Board of Directors

Since 1981, an accessible, responsible, and responsive radio alternative serving the communities of East-Central Illinois.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

WILL AM-FM-TV

Campbell Hall for Public Telecommunication
300 North Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-2316

August 12, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP Selection Committee,

We are pleased to offer this letter of enthusiastic support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband proposal in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. We know that it will have far-reaching positive effects on our community, with increased opportunities and educational outcomes for citizens currently underserved in a world where network access has become fundamental.

WILL is the public television and radio station serving Champaign-Urbana and communities throughout central Illinois. We've been one of the top small market PBS and NPR stations for some decades, and have long-standing educational programs and partnerships throughout our communities and schools. The University of Illinois was instrumental in establishing the National Association of Educational Broadcasters, which led directly to the creation of public broadcasting via the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. We aim to continue this tradition of innovation and public service.

We have also seen the impact of our work in bridging the digital divide, both in enabling access to computers and the internet, and in training people how to use them. For the past eight years, our Youth Media Workshop program has worked with at-risk middle and high school students to develop digital literacy, media production, and storytelling skills. The transformation in these young people is in many cases profound. Kids on the verge of dropping out have become honor roll students bound for college. We work in partnership with many of the participants in the Champaign-Urbana BTOP proposal, including the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, and the area School Districts. With the proposed funding for Community Technology Centers and additional training, we are convinced that this project can greatly expand the positive impacts we've seen and create new opportunities for our underserved citizens and communities.

From our perspective this comes at a fortuitous time, as our work and that of other public broadcasters on digital education services is beginning to bear fruit. We are working to digitize and make accessible decades of analog archives from public TV and radio productions spanning decades of American history and culture. The record of our times is

reflected in these audio and video archives, and we are making them accessible for use as educational materials. WILL also publishes some 40 hours of born-digital content online every week for public and educational use. The expansion of broadband access is critical for us to deliver our content and educational services.

Illinois Public Media also proposes creation of a center for sustainable journalism. In public-private partnership between the University of Illinois, a variety of private companies engaged in community transformation and traditional local media outlets, this technology center would serve the public interest by training high school and college students and community thought leaders in the use of new media for informing and engaging the citizenry. The center would use our Youth Media Workshop model for training and engagement. Mentors would guide the process as students research and report on issues of community adaptability and sustainability. In addition to receiving timely, relevant and accurate information, residents would have the opportunity through new media, social networking, and traditional engagement practices to be interactively involved in shaping the future of their community.

The community as a whole would benefit as existing media utilize the center to adopt new media models - increasing their ability to sustain and enhance good journalism practices and community impact as legacy delivery models decline. Of particular benefit is the ability through the center to expose the value of involving underrepresented constituencies. This would help to shape public policy by giving them voice in community transformation decisions, such as communication, energy, transportation, and community health policy initiatives supported by the center.

Universal access to our culture and history is now dependent upon effective access to the internet via broadband connections. Addressing connectivity and digital literacy has become central to our mission as educational broadcasters. Our partnerships and services to schools result in measurably improved outcomes in educational achievement and economic opportunity in the underserved populations of Champaign-Urbana and throughout central Illinois. We intend to extend and deepen that impact through our participation in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband initiative. With support from this grant, we and our partners are ready to work.

Sincerely,



Jack Brighton
Director of New Media & Innovation
Illinois Public Media/WILL
College of Media at Illinois
Campbell Hall for Public Telecommunication
300 N. Goodwin
Urbana, IL 61801
217-333-7300
<http://will.illinois.edu>
jackb@illinois.edu

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues:

The Mo' Betta Music Program is excited to hear of the UC2B proposal submission. The Mo' Betta Music Program is a collaborative program between the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement and a community based volunteer organization. Mo' Betta Music seeks to provide individual, small, and large group instruction to local area underrepresented students in instrumental and vocal music. The Program is offered twice a week during the after school hours at a local church facility. Instructors include university faculty and staff and graduate students. The Program utilizes the idioms of jazz and popular music to teach students. The goal is to offer creative and constructive outlets to underrepresented students so that they can achieve at high levels in their respective school bands and choral groups.

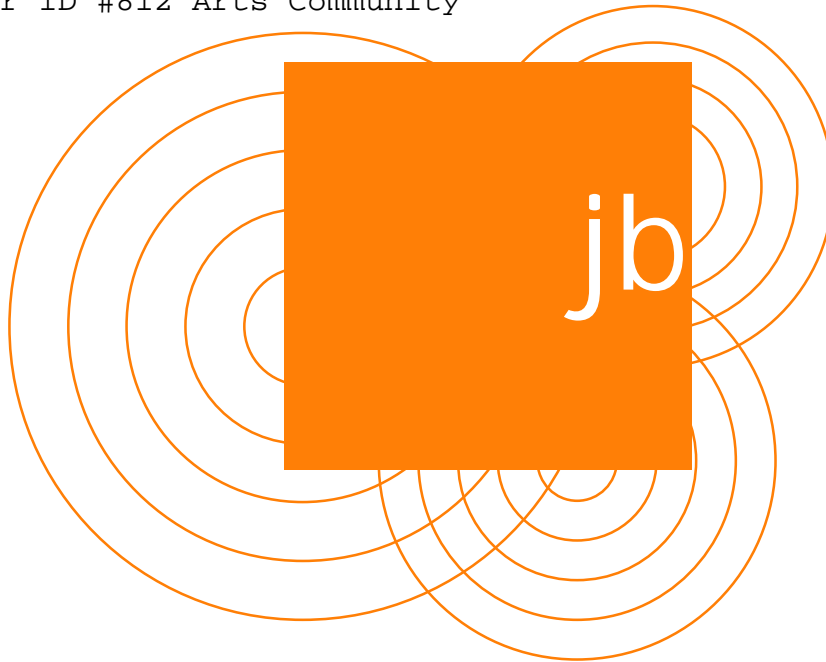
Mo' Betta Music would use the community labs created by the broadband initiative to access on-line musical examples, to produce and publish their own original music on-line, and to communicate with other similar musical youth organizations throughout the country and perhaps the world. High speed broadband would increase the quality of the musical examples and videos currently found on the internet.

Our practice facility is already a community lab, but access to the internet is cumbersome, which makes it harder to utilize the web and its resources.

For these reasons, the Mo' Betta Music Program is very enthusiastic about the UC2B proposal and is highly supportive of it.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel C. Banks
Director, Campus Community Interface Initiatives
Coordinator Mo' Betta Music Program



To Whom It May Concern:

I write today to endorse the establishment of a broadband network to increase the availability of the Internet to the underserved in our community. As our world continues to move into a heavily technology based arena, our community must do so as well. As the Arts Editor for Champaign-Urbana, an online magazine providing an alternative voice for our community, I believe the need for public broadband will help bridge the divide in our community and bring much needed 21st century access to those without the ability or the funds to do so. This access will most definitely provide and bring much needed money, jobs, and technology to our community.

Best,

Justine Bursoni

Arts Editor at SmilePolitely.com

Justine Bursoni

819 West Vine Street, Champaign, IL, 61820
jbursoni@gmail.com



910 South Lynn Street Urbana Illinois 61801

August 10, 2009

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

Dear colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of the Regional Inquiry Studio (RIS) to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. My organization is a newly-established cultural institution and residency program with the goal to look critically at intersecting landscapes of small towns, rural communities and regions in the Midwest. We serve primarily artists, community-based researchers and organizers. Our current technology use relies on the personal equipment of our volunteers because we have few financial resources, but there is so much more that we would like to do. If we and our partners had access to a community media lab with equipment for video production and other tools proposed in this submission, we could readily generate projects that amplify previously untold narratives and layer multiple and possibly contradictory visions of this place. By having this proposed infrastructure and the social networks to support it, RIS will join in the creation of new knowledge, discussions and regional collaborations through the production of projects, workshops, tours, and exhibitions.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ross
Director



BUSEY BANK
201 W. MAIN ST.
PO BOX 17430
URBANA, IL 61803-7430
WWW.BUSEY.COM

August 11, 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

Dear Broadband Technology Opportunities Program:

I am writing to express my support of the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project to provide high speed connectivity via fiber-optics to all areas of our community.

This project will make available Internet connectivity to the unserved, underserved and vulnerable populations in the community. In addition to the delivery of Internet services the implementation and on-going support for the project will provide for economic development opportunities in our community.

Busey Bank has an interest in this project for several reasons. Providing wider use of the Internet allows more of our customers to interact with us electronically keeping their cost of acquiring services lower. Additionally, Busey looks forward to being able to purchase Big Broadband services over the UC2B network to improve our connectivity and help in managing our expenses.

This project is a great example of the collaboration between the city governments, the University of Illinois, the school districts and local businesses for the good of the community.

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding of the UC2B project will provide Internet services for those in our community who heretofore would be unable to have access. In addition, stimulating the local economy through the implementation of the project and allowing local businesses to take advantage of improved connectivity for customer access and internal operations are important benefits.

Your serious consideration of providing funding for the UC2B project will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Schlorff". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, large, curved line that spans across the bottom left of the page.

Donald J. Schlorff
Executive Vice President



Ploughman Analytics

Charles D. Linville, Ph.D.
2021 S 1st St Ste 206D
Champaign IL 61820-7477
(217) 693-4000
August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues:

I am writing to explain my participation in the UC2B Infrastructure, Public Computing and Sustainability project. Ploughman Analytics is a locally-owned analytics consultancy, providing geographic information systems, business intelligence, operations research, and knowledge management services to the agriculture and energy sectors.

Early information about crop production and conditions in the United States and elsewhere can be of tremendous value to society. This information helps markets find efficient prices for agricultural commodities, and these prices facilitate planning and decision making for individuals, firms, and governments as they respond to changes in production and consumption of commodities used for food, feed, fuel, and fiber. Acquiring, analyzing, and disseminating information about agricultural production from a variety of sources, including instruments on satellites, is facilitated by high bandwidth/low cost data networks. At present, the cost and magnitude of currently available bandwidth limits our analytics practice, and constrains our research and development goals in this area.

High bandwidth/low cost data networks such as those planned by UC2B would remove constraints to our practice and research and development efforts. It would facilitate more rapid growth of our business, and could contribute to the societal benefits of advanced methods in assessing crop production and conditions. Our participation will be to seek to purchase higher speed lower cost bandwidth from the businesses who will supply "last mile" from the "middle mile" fiber rings UC2B will build. Without high bandwidth/low cost data networks local businesses are disadvantaged relative to those located on big broadband elsewhere in the US or the world.

Charles D. Linville



121 South 17th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938-3987
www.consolidated.com
Tel 217 235 3311

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

U.S. Department of Commerce,

This letter is to inform you Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI) is in support of the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project that will be reviewed and awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Consolidated Communications, Inc. is an Independent Telephone Company (ILEC) that has served Central Illinois since 1894. CCI is a full services IP based network company that supports video services, high speed DSL, and IP voice services. If the UC2B project is funded by NTIA, CCI would highly consider becoming a full services IP service provider for the project. We are in full support of increasing broadband services in the Champaign / Urbana area.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 217-234-5600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael W. Smith
Vice President Marketing



August 12, 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

U.S. Department of Commerce,

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.

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.

If the UC2B project is funded by NTIA, CTC would offer a full range of IP services using the fiber infrastructure installed for this project. We are in full support of increasing the Big Broadband services available in this community.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hosier', is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Michael Hosier
President
Champaign Telephone Company

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

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

Dear Sir/Madam;

I am writing in regard to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's involvement in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium. While this critical infrastructure project will provide a great benefit to the campus and local community, it would have been impossible for the university to pursue this project without federal support. During four of the last five years, the Urbana-Champaign campus fully expended its unrestricted operating funds. As the campus budget officer, I certify that without federal grant assistance, it would be impossible for the campus to implement this project.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Andrechak".

Michael Andrechak
Associate Provost for Budgets
and Resource Planning

UC2B Last Mile 55-6

| Infrastructure Funds | Year 0 | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | | Year 4 | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | |
| Infrastructure Funds Advanced (estimate) | | | | | | | | | \$960,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Funds | | | | | | | | | 3.08% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entities Passed & % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households | | | | | | | | | 368 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Households | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Businesses | | | | | | | | | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Businesses | | | | | | | | | 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic institutions | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage of Total Institutions | | | | | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Census Blocks included: 55-6
 Total service area Households: 368
 Total Service Area Businesses: 30
 Total Service Area Strategic Institutions: 4

 Total FTTH Budget: \$12,000,000
 Budget for SA: \$960,000
 Total MM Budget \$31,200,000