February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Commitment for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to express our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in West Central Wisconsin.

Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10) is a regional educational service agency serving thirty school districts in western Wisconsin, ranging from 170 to 10,000 in student population. We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:

- We know it can have long-lasting impact on how we learn, live and work. Access to high quality coursework, information and other resources is now critical to formal and ongoing education, and can only be delivered by ubiquitous broadband infrastructure.
- This effort will improve broadband access in some areas, and provide new service to areas not having access before. The improved access will include broadband wireless services to areas never before having that option.
- Studies show that increasing time on task is fundamental in increasing student achievement. Hence, the afore-mentioned access to high quality coursework, information and other resources **inside and outside the school day** is essential to **ALL** children. Our project will provide greater access to the underprivileged to help narrow that achievement gap.

As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by:

- Providing ongoing leadership to our membership both in the procurement and use of broadband technology. This includes negotiating connections, providing programming and providing training to maximize usage.
- Providing fiscal agent resources to the projects where applicable.

Abbotsford	Cadott	Eleva-Strum	Granton	Medford	Owen-Withee
Altoona	Chippewa Falls	Fall Creek	Greenwood	Mondovi	Spencer
Augusta	Colby	Flambeau	Ladysmith-Hawkins	Neillsville	Stanley-Boyd
Bloomer	Cornell	Gilman	Lake Holcombe	New Auburn	Thorp
Bruce	Eau Claire	Gilmanton	Loyal	Osseo-Fairchild	Weyerhaeuser

www.cesa10.k12.wi.us

- Assisting in the educational outreach component of BCCB by:
  - Delivering training to our identified underserved populations utilizing materials designed by UW-Extension
  - Delivering training to schools in the effective use of tools requiring broadband access including video conferencing and the use of online learning management systems.

As a result of these grants, additional CESA 10 school districts will have access to the following:
- Broadband service will be made available to areas in communities that currently have sporadic access at best.
- Broadband services as a member of Community Are Networks can be delivered more economically without reoccurring transport charges.
- Management and maintenance of servers and servers will decrease as more services are shared.
- New member of Community Are Networks will have new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions, and share application costs.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits (broadband access to raise student achievement and increase efficiencies) that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Ross N. Wilson
Director, Educational Technology Services CESA 10

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW – Extension

WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

AshlandNewRichmondRiceLakeSuperiorHaywardLadysmith

Administrative Office

Bob Meyer
President

March 4, 2010

Ref No 10-21

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

The purpose of this letter is to express support for University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our region through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Superior, Rice Lake and Shell Lake.
We are collaborating on this important endeavor because it represents a unique opportunity to reduce our long term operating costs and, at the same time, improve our bandwidth. As an educational institution serving more than 10,000 square miles in Northwest Wisconsin, we are continually expanding our efforts to provide services that require the capacity offered through this project. For example, delivering video over our network assists us in teaching classes remotely and with setting up virtual meetings and other events. With our help, the project will also provide access to formerly unavailable bandwidth to other organizations in the communities we serve.

As a collaborator in this project, we will assist in the planning and development of the project. In addition, we are willing to provide financial support in the amount of $150,000, pending approval of the Grant, to assist in the implementation.

With its regional presence, WITC can help lead the effort to provide better infrastructure in Northwest Wisconsin. We have already had preliminary discussions with community partners, and they have expressed interest in the project based on our participation. We're confident that our commitment will encourage others to take advantage of the improved access and bandwidth available through the project.
Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits, particularly reduced costs and improved bandwidth, that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

John Will
Vice President, Administrative Services

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW – Extension

WITC Administrative Office
505 Pine Ridge Drive
Shell Lake, WI 54871

715.468.2815
Fax: 715.468.2819
TTY: 888.261.8578
800.243.WITC

Internet: www.witc.edu

An Equal Opportunity/ADA
Employer and Educator

St JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
CHIPPEWA FALLS

2661 County Highway I
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1498

Sacred Heart Hospital
Hospital Sisters Health System

900 West Clairemont Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

WESTERN WISCONSIN REGION

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Commitment for *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* Application

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both applications address critical health and wellness needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because:
- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to offer new or substantially upgraded service to critical access hospitals in rural and underserved areas.
- This BTOP project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other stakeholders, improving cost-effective services within our and surrounding communities
- This project will save lives by improving public safety, EMS and healthcare service delivery, and disaster preparedness.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. Two of our hospitals (Sacred Heart in Eau Claire and St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls) are associate members of CINC, a regional local community area network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. CINC facilitates network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically

sustainable. CINC members, represented by chief information officers, include: Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City of Chippewa Falls, City of Eau Claire, County of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Schools, and others.

ROLE OF HSHS AS A PROJECT PARTNER:

- As an associate member of CINC, we will be contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project (but not managing or operating the network).
- We will be contributing equipment for any public computing centers associated with this project (a needed for in-kind donation of used personal computers, such as to the Boys and Girls Club, the Free Clinic or the Chippewa Valley Museum).
- We will be financially contributing a total of $600,000 in a cash match toward the cost of this project in the coming three years, from Fiscal Years 2011 to 2013:

    1. FY 2011--$300,000
    2. FY 2012--$150,000
    3. FY 2013--$150,000

BARRIERS:

Many educational programs and critical lifesaving healthcare applications today cannot work on anything less than ultra high speed broadband. Western Wisconsin is unable to move forward without the broadband infrastructure to enable these applications and technology.

BENEFITS, OUTCOMES & SUSTAINABILITY:

This effort will help enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural and other underserved areas through telemedicine, telemonitoring, and through the high speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. This grant will allow area healthcare organizations to attain improved broadband communication with each other and with smaller clinics and rural critical access hospitals.

Without this funding, there will be limited or no broadband connectivity with the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic (Eau Claire) and the Open Door Free Clinic (Chippewa Falls). Both organizations provide medical care to the uninsured below the federal poverty level. Enhanced broadband connectivity will allow the Free Clinics to share electronic medical record software applications, pursue telemedicine consults by volunteer physician specialists, and immediately share medical records with other healthcare providers (expediting treatment plans and avoiding duplicative tests).
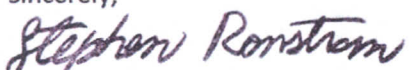
This grant will begin the virtual integration of community service groups. Many of the currently isolated community service groups are not able to expand their reach due to physical limitations in the service areas they serve and the populations that are in close proximity to them. Many have limited resources to expand their reach to serve greater populations (and often have greater demand for their services in an economy with high unemployment). By using high speed fiber networks, broadband connectivity provides a new and more modern way to increase and expand

the reach of these organizations, leverage and utilize the sharing of resources, and facilitate the transfer of recycled technology (such as personal computers).

Lastly, this project will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing each network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness. This BTOP proposal will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing. It will strengthen the redundant infrastructure required for patient and public safety and provide improved service integration and innovation.

Because of the innovative benefits to health, safety and wellness from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.
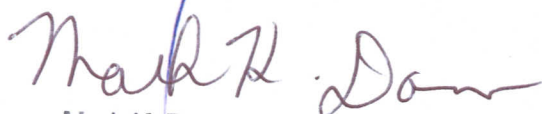
Sincerely,

Stephen Ronstrom

Stephen F. Ronstrom, MHA
President and CEO
Hospital Sisters Health System Division (Western Wisconsin)

Dave Fish
President and CEO, St. Joseph's Hospital
Public Policy Administrator, Hospital Sisters Health System Division (Western Wisconsin)

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin – Extension

indianhead

February 26, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Commitment for BTOP Sustainable Adoption Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to express our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP application for sustainable broadband adoption. This project addresses critical needs for our communities in western Wisconsin through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity.

The Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) is a state-funded agency established under Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes to provide services to its 56 members and to insure that all area residents have access to public libraries. County Board Chairs appoint the 20-person board, which governs IFLS. IFLS members include 53 independent public libraries and 3 county library services in 10 west central Wisconsin counties.

Resource sharing services provided by IFLS include support for shared automated systems, Internet access, a telecommunications Wide Area Network, delivery service, and a regional interlibrary loan clearinghouse. Other services include continuing education and consulting for library staff, technology support, discounts or coordinating orders of library materials and supplies and a library books by mail program for people who can't leave their residence without assistance.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. We are a member of CINC, a regional Community Area Network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers to facilitate network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable. Along with IFLS, CINC members, represented by chief information officers, include: Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City of Chippewa Falls, City of Eau Claire, County of Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Area Schools. In addition, Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), St. Joseph's Hospital (Chippewa Falls) and Luther Midelfort (Eau Claire) are associate CINC members.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:
- We know that it will have a lasting impact on the lives of residents in ten counties in northwestern Wisconsin by teaching them skills they need for fulfilling and rewarding work and personal lives.
- This program will provide us with four portable computer labs (12 laptops each) that we can freely lend to our member libraries for their use in local, educational programming.
- Smaller community libraries that could not justify purchasing educational labs of their own will have access to professionally configured and maintained computer labs and the educational curricula to go along with them.

As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by:

Ensuring all area residents have access to libraries in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, and St Croix counties.

- As a library system that is a critical community anchor institution, we will support this funded project with a cash match of $7900 over the next two years toward the project.
- Providing ongoing advice and support to our membership.
- Professionally preparing and maintaining the computer labs for our libraries' use.
- Working closely with BCCB to address the needs of a segment of the population that may be hard to reach or a vulnerable group that requires special attention to ensure understanding and usage of broadband.
- Participating in the Community Area Network to ensure usage of broadband technology within our organization.
- Assisting in the educational outreach component of BCCB by providing our member libraries with the proper equipment, curricula and training to educate their local residents in the uses and opportunities presented by broadband access.

As a collaborator we hope to see the following benefits and outcomes:
- Our organization currently owns one 12-laptop computer lab that we lend out to 53 public libraries. This one lab is constantly booked throughout the year.
- As a result of these grants, our organization will be able to more adequately support the programming needs of our member libraries. We already have a group of trained professionals (library staff in our member libraries) ready and able to educate the public about the applications that make broadband so necessary. We feel this project is a great opportunity to provide equipment for those staff to use.
- Our member libraries provide classes in a wide range of topics that utilize and promote broadband network connections. Some examples follow:
    - Seeking jobs online
    - Resume writing
    - Genealogical research
    - Beginning Internet use for seniors
    - Social networking
    - Health research
- This effort will build on a grant that the Wisconsin Department of Administration received to increase the broadband capacity of public libraries by helping libraries use that capacity to educate and serve their fellow community members.
- This effort will also build on significant investments the State of Wisconsin, the Indianhead Federated Library System, and local libraries have made in database subscriptions that give residents access to high-quality, easily searchable information in the areas of:
    - Health
    - Children's Education
    - Careers
    - Genealogy
    - Business
    - Home and auto repair and improvement
    - Literature
    - General Research

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

John Thompson
Executive Director
Indianhead Federated Library System

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW-Extension

C·E·S·A 10
Cooperative Educational Service Agency

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Commitment for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to express our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in West Central Wisconsin.

Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10) is a regional educational service agency serving thirty school districts in western Wisconsin, ranging from 170 to 10,000 in student population. We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:

- We know it can have long-lasting impact on how we learn, live and work. Access to high quality coursework, information and other resources is now critical to formal and ongoing education, and can only be delivered by ubiquitous broadband infrastructure.
- This effort will improve broadband access in some areas, and provide new service to areas not having access before. The improved access will include broadband wireless services to areas never before having that option.
- Studies show that increasing time on task is fundamental in increasing student achievement. Hence, the afore-mentioned access to high quality coursework, information and other resources **inside and outside the school day** is essential to **ALL** children. Our project will provide greater access to the underprivileged to help narrow that achievement gap.

As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by:

- Providing ongoing leadership to our membership both in the procurement and use of broadband technology. This includes negotiating connections, providing programming and providing training to maximize usage.
- Providing fiscal agent resources to the projects where applicable.

Abbotsford	Cadott	Eleva-Strum	Granton	Medford	Owen-Withee
Altoona	Chippewa Falls	Fall Creek	Greenwood	Mondovi	Spencer
Augusta	Colby	Flambeau	Ladysmith-Hawkins	Neillsville	Stanley-Boyd
Bloomer	Cornell	Gilman	Lake Holcombe	New Auburn	Thorp
Bruce	Eau Claire	Gilmanton	Loyal	Osseo-Fairchild	Weyerhaeuser

- Assisting in the educational outreach component of BCCB by:
  - Delivering training to our identified underserved populations utilizing materials designed by UW-Extension
  - Delivering training to schools in the effective use of tools requiring broadband access including video conferencing and the use of online learning management systems.

As a result of these grants, additional CESA 10 school districts will have access to the following:

- Broadband service will be made available to areas in communities that currently have sporadic access at best.
- Broadband services as a member of Community Are Networks can be delivered more economically without reoccurring transport charges.
- Management and maintenance of servers and servers will decrease as more services are shared.
- New member of Community Are Networks will have new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions, and share application costs.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits (broadband access to raise student achievement and increase efficiencies) that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Ross N. Wilson
Director, Educational Technology Services CESA 10

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW – Extension

Office of the Chancellor
325 Administration Building

STOUT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN'S POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

University of Wisconsin-Stout
P.O. Box 790
Menomonie, WI 54751-0790

715/232-2441
715/232-1416 fax
http://www.uwstout.edu/chancellor/

March 8, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Commitment for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

I write to you today to express my commitment to the University of Wisconsin –
Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB) BTOP
applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband
adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will
provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity at
the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, and
western Wisconsin.

Since its founding in 1891, students from around the world have been drawn to the UW-
Stout campus by an outstanding curriculum, a faculty with a record of service to students,
and excellent facilities. This program will be enhanced by the BTOP grant.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP
project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin and UW-Stout is partnering with
CINC in this project in Menomonie. CINC is a regional work group formed in 1999 to
coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state
government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers to
facilitate network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable.
CINC members, represented by chief information officers, include: Cooperative
Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire,
County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City of Chippewa
Falls, City of Eau Claire, County of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Schools, and The
Indianhead Federated Library System.

Malcolm Baldrige
National
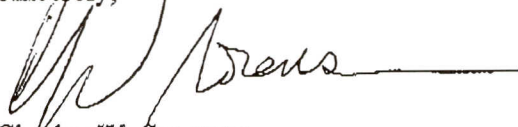Quality
Award

2001 Award
Recipient

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because it is innovative and will significantly benefit the University of Wisconsin-Stout in greater efficiency, and improved connectivity capabilities and bandwidth. This project will also allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

This BTOP proposal will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, and provide integrated, innovative and accessible services.

<u>Our role as a partner in this project includes financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $80,000</u>. We are also supporting this effort by collaborating with CINC to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project in Menomonie. This collaboration will benefit the UW-Stout network to benefit academic study, teaching and research.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Sorensen
Chancellor

February 24, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Grant Letter of Support

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because

- We know it will have long-lasting impact on how we live and work. This will allow collaboration with other educational sites where we need to move large amounts of data as in geology, computer science, geography, and nursing. Also areas where we would like to provide high quality video such as between area schools and our college of Education and Human Sciences.
- The effort will benefit the community because of improved public safety being able to send large amounts of data quickly and securely between various government/health/fire/law enforcement agencies.
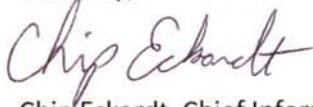
As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by:

- Providing ongoing consulting and network engineering assistance to our membership.
- Working closely with BCCB to address the needs of a segment of the population that may be hard to reach or a vulnerable group that requires special attention to ensure understanding and usage of broadband
- Participating in the Community Area Network to ensure usage of broadband technology within our organization
- Broadband service will be made available to areas of the community that currently have sporadic access at best.
- This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing their network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.
- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

- This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information.
- This effort will improve broadband service for our membership, or broadband service availability to areas of the state that currently have limited access at best, new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions
- This effort will improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity
- This effort will create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits such as connecting our various healthcare facilities, our K-12 schools and our universities and technical collages together that allow us to provide support in ways never dreamed of even ten years ago that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building *Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Chip Eckardt, Chief Information Officer
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

School District of Abbotsford
307 N 4th Ave
Abbotsford, WI 54405-9521
(715) 223-6715

February 5, 2010

The School District of Abbotsford is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in
metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide the School District of Abbotsford with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Reed Welsh [via email]

Reed Welsh
District Administrator
School District of Abbotsford
PO 70
Abbotsford, WI 54405
(715) 223-6715
FAX: (715) 223-4239
Visit Us At: www.abbotsford.k12.wi.us

March 8, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Commitment for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to express our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in the Fall Creek School District in western Wisconsin.

The School District of Fall Creek is located in west-central Wisconsin, ten miles east of Eau Claire. The district has an enrollment of 830 students housed in one K-12 complex, which facilitates the sharing of resources and staff members. Our K-12 education facilities include an Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and District Office. The BTOP project would significantly enhance educational and career opportunities for our students, provide important new tools to our teachers, and significantly improve our learning environment.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because recent research from the project "Innovation in Educational Technology: The Virtualization of K-12 and Higher Education" predicts that by 2014 nearly 10 million K-12 students will be taking classes online. This BTOP grant will help us meet the needs of our students as they enter a fast-paced technologically advanced world. This grant will also:

- Make possible online curriculum that is shared throughout the district and also allow collaboration between staff on common assessments, data study and improved instructional strategies. All of this supports research that preparation of pre-school age children consistently shows them being more successful from K-12, both academically and socially.

GARY FRANKIEWICZ	GAYLE HOLTE	BRIAN W. SCHULNER
SUPERINTENDENT	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	6-12 PRINCIPAL
336 E. HOOVER AVENUE	336 E. HOOVER AVENUE	336 E. HOOVER AVENUE
(715) 877-2123	(715) 877-3331	(715) 877-2511
(715) 877-2911 FAX	(715) 877-3853 FAX	(715) 877-3853 FAX

- Allow us to expand our distance learning programs with other K-12 districts across the state. For example, difficult-to-teach foreign languages could be taught with online resources. High speed connectivity would also open up an entire new global curriculum to students that would prepare them for post-secondary education or the workforce.

Our role as a partner in this project includes financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $10,000. We are also supporting this effort by:

- Participating in the local Community Area Network to ensure usage of broadband technology within our organization

- Working on identifying populations within our district that could benefit from broadband and educating them on to access information either from our district or educational resources that would benefit them. An example includes adult literacy programs.

School districts around the country face overwhelming challenges in preparing students for a workplace and post-secondary education that is constantly changing. Because public school funding models are not designed to meet these challenge, the BTOP grant would help bridge the gap for our district and several other districts through Wisconsin. BTOP funding will help us better prepare our students and communities for tomorrow.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Sincerely,

Chuck Kukura
Fall Creek School District

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both projects address critical needs for Altoona's schools and community. These projects will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to provide education and to build community capacity in northwest Wisconsin.

The School District of Altoona is located in west central Wisconsin in the heart of the Chippewa Valley. Contiguous to Eau Claire, Altoona is a community of 6,700 residents and is home to approximately 200 businesses. The Altoona school district serves a student population of nearly 1,500 students. The school district includes the City of Altoona and a portion of the Town of Washington. The district extends six miles to the east, south to highway AA, southwest to Otter Creek. The northern border is Lake Altoona. Fairfax Avenue is the district's western limit. The district's three schools, Pedersen Elementary (K-4), Altoona Middle School (5-8), and Altoona High School (9-12) are conveniently located on one site.

1. **Pedersen Elementary School** (a multi-unit school serving the needs of approximately 525 students in grades one through four and kindergarten), is located at 1827 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720
2. **Altoona Middle School** (a fifth through eighth grade facility serving the needs of approximately 500 students), is located at 1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720
3. **Altoona High School** (serving 420 students), is located at 711 7th St. W., Altoona, WI 54720

We are partnering on this important endeavor because:

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions, including schools in the School District of Altoona.

- BTOP grant funding will provide high speed broadband connectivity to benefit our high school, middle school, elementary school and district office. This connectivity, together with integrated technology, will empower our student and staff learning to become effective users of ideas and information in the 21st century.

Our role as a partner organization includes:

- We will be collaborating with the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). CINC is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley and works to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers.

- We will be working with CINC to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project and will manage the School District of Altoona schools' fiber-enabled network to benefit students and teachers.

- Pending Board approval on April 19, 2010, we will be contributing to the cost share in the amount of $45,000 ($15,000 each year for three years).

Broadband service will be made available to areas of the school community that currently have sporadic access at best and no access at all. This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.
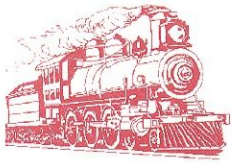
This BTOP effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services. Broadband connectivity will tremendously expand educational resources for our school community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Kathy R. Dahl, CPA
Business Manager

Spooner Area School District

March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment
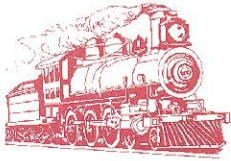
Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today on behalf of the Spooner Area School District (SASD) to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both projects address critical needs for SASD and Spooner area community. These projects will provide us with the impetus and support we need to provide educational resources and to build community capacity in northwest Wisconsin.

SASD is located in Washburn and Burnett Counties in northwest Wisconsin and serves 1222 students 130 staff members. SASD demographics are rural and lower income. Many of the students attending the Spooner Area School District are from low-income households. Federal free/reduced price percentages for the 2009-2010 school year are: Spooner Elementary School 54%, Spooner Middle School 46%, Spooner High School 39%. A growing virtual school combined with rapidly expanding classroom use of web 2.0 resources is underserved by current broadband connections. The district would greatly benefit from a faster broadband connection.

SASD is partnering on this important endeavor because:

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions, including all schools in the Spooner Area Schools District.
- BTOP grant funding will provide high speed broadband connectivity to benefit our high school, middle school elementary school, early childhood facility and district office. This connectivity, together with integrated technology, will empower our student and staff learning to become effective users of ideas and information in the 21st century.

Our role as a partner organization includes:

Spooner Area School District

- Collaborating with the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). CINC is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley and works to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers.
- Working with CINC to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project and will manage the SASD Schools' fiber-enabled network to benefit students and teachers.
- SASD will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $15,000.00.

Broadband service will be made available to areas of the school community that currently have sporadic access at best and no access at all. This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

This BTOP effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services. Broadband connectivity provide infrastructure to support and greatly expand educational resources for our school community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building *Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Haack, Superintendant
Spooner Area School District

March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both projects address critical needs for Rice Lake's schools and community. These projects will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to provide education and to build community capacity in northwest Wisconsin.

The Rice Lake Area School District serves 2,463 students in four-year-old kindergarten through grade twelve. With an annual budget of $27.6 million, the District employs over 200 professional staff and 115 support personnel. We serve students from the City of Rice Lake, townships of Barron, Bear Lake, Birchwood, Cedar Lake, Doyle, Haugen, Long Lake, Oak Grove, Sarona, Stanfold, Stanley, Sumner, Wilkinson, Wilson, and the Village of Haugen. <u>The area includes 241 square miles of mostly rural and small town areas, mostly with no broadband connectivity</u>. The Rice Lake Area School District is a part of the Cooperative Educational Service Agency 11.

There are five elementary sites in the Rice Lake Area School District, along with a middle school and high school. We are partnering on this important endeavor because:

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions, including Rice Lake Area School District schools.
- BTOP grant funding will provide high speed broadband connectivity to benefit our high school, middle school, elementary schools, alternative school, and district office. This connectivity, together with integrated technology, will empower our student and staff learning to become effective users of ideas and information in the 21st century.

Our role as a partner organization includes:

- We will be collaborating with the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). CINC is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley and works to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers.
- We will be working with CINC to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project and will manage the Rice Lake schools' fiber-enabled network to benefit students and teachers.
- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $45,000.

This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

This BTOP effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services. Broadband connectivity will tremendously expand educational resources for our school community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.
Sincerely,

Thomas Lange
District Technology Coordinator
Rice Lake Area School District
Ph: 715-234-2181 Ext. 1098
Fax: 715-234-6679
langet@ricelake.k12.wi.us

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MONDOVI

337 N. JACKSON STREET
MONDOVI, WISCONSIN 54755-1197

PHONE (715) 926-3684
FAX   (715) 926-3617
E-MAIL cgullicksrud@mondovi.k12.wi.us

CHERYL L. GULLICKSRUD
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

March 4, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both projects address critical needs for the School District of Mondovi and our surrounding community. These projects will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to provide education and to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.

The School District of Mondovi covers approximately 204 square miles and includes all of the City of Mondovi and all or portions of the following rural townships: Canton, Modena, Mondovi, and Naples in Buffalo County; Brunswick, Drammen, and Pleasant Valley in Eau Claire County; Albany in Pepin County; and Rock Creek in Dunn County.

The School District of Mondovi is a part of the Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10). CESA 10 is a member of the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), which is the Community Area Network overseeing the Chippewa Valley BTOP project.

The School District of Mondovi maintains two school buildings in the district: Anthony Elementary (a rural school without broadband connectivity) and the City School Complex which includes Mondovi Elementary (Early Childhood, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Five-Year-Old Kindergarten, and Grades 1-5), Mondovi Middle School (Grades 6-8), and Mondovi High School (Grades 9-12).

We are partnering in this important endeavor because:

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions, including the School District of Mondovi.

- BTOP grant funding will provide broadband connectivity to benefit our high school, middle school, elementary school, and district office.

Our role as a partner organization includes:

- We will be collaborating with our Community Area Network, the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). CINC is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley and works to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers.

- We will be working with CINC to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project and will manage the Mondovi schools' fiber-enabled network to benefit students and teachers.

- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $ 42,500.00.

Broadband service will be made available to areas of the school community that currently have sporadic access at best and no access at all. This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

This BTOP effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative, and accessible services. Broadband connectivity will tremendously expand educational resources for our school community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gullicksrud

Cheryl Gullicksrud
District Administrator
School District of Mondovi

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY

**Boys & Girls Club
Of the Greater
Chippewa Valley, Inc.**
201 E. Lake Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: 715.855.0081
Fax: 715.855.0082

March 2, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

Officers
Craig Olsen
President

Luke Wren
Vice President

Angela Niska
Secretary

Greg Misfeldt
Treasurer

Jennifer Nohelty
Past President

RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Sustainable Adoption and Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant, *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"*

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* BTOP application for sustainable broadband adoption. This project addresses critical needs for our communities in western Wisconsin through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity.

Board of Directors
Leann Breed
Trevor Bohland
Marjorie Bunce
Kris Dimock
Holly Hart
Ron Heilmann
Dianne Hughes
Debi Levin-Stankevich
Terry McHugh
William Milne
Janine Wildenberg

The Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley provides structured programming for youth ages 8 – 18 after school and on school breaks. The Club inspires all youth, especially those that needs us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. The Boys & Girls Club provides programs and services promote and enhance the development of youth by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. The five core program areas include: Character & Leadership, Health & Life Skills, The Arts, Sports, Recreation & Fitness and Education & Career. The Club offers Club Tech, an introductory course for using computers and Open CPU for checking email.

Executive Director
Sara Antonson

Director of Resource Development
Tracey Smiskey

Program Director
Mike McHorney

Program Coordinator
Kelsie Bauer

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP infrastructure project to build community capacity in the Chippewa Valley. CINC is a regional Community Area Network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. CINC's network expansion and creation is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:

- It will provide high speed connectivity to our computer lab for boys and girls which will increase our broadband capacity and enhance our Club Tech (an

introductory course for using computers), our Open CPU program, and other educational and recreational internet activities

- The University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* Sustainable Adoption project will provide educational opportunities to our youth
- This project will have a lasting impact on the lives of our boys and girls as a result of teaching them skills they need for fulfilling and rewarding work and personal lives.
- This program will provide us with in-kind donated computers and monitors from associate CINC members such as Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire).

As a collaborator in the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* BTOP project, we are supporting this effort by:

- Helping to identify an audience of area boys and girls interested in learning life and career skills using our new high speed broadband connectivity
- Working with the UW-Extension and other CINC members such as the Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) to help provide training for our boys and girls (and even training and equipping some of our kids to provide training to other boys and girls)
- Providing ongoing advice and support to our volunteers, donors and patrons
- Preparing and maintaining the computer labs for our patrons' use
- Participating in the CINC Community Area Network to ensure usage of broadband technology within our organization
- Assisting in the educational outreach component of the "Building Community Capacity through Broadband" project by providing our patrons with the proper educational equipment, curricula and training to utilize opportunities presented by our new high speed broadband access

As a collaborator, we hope our boys and girls will see the following benefits and outcomes:

- Improved connectivity in our computer lab
- Newer computer equipment in our computer lab (from in-kind donations through CINC) and possibly added terminals
- Educational and training opportunities for our youth
- Additional resources for our young patrons, including:
    1. Seeking career information online, basic resume writing and part-time/summer job search resources
    2. Beginning Internet use for boys and girls
    3. Social networking
    4. Health, wellness and recreational research
    5. Other age-appropriate research, education and usage

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Sincerely,

Craig Olsen
Board President
Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley

EAU CLAIRE
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to express our support for the University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both applications address critical public education needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. We are a member of CINC, a Community Area Network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers to facilitate network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable. CINC members, represented by chief information officers, include: Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City of Chippewa Falls, and the City and County of Eau Claire.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because the proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to our public schools, including: 13 elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools and two business offices serving the school district. This project will serve 10,731 students and 828 teachers.

Our role as a key partner includes:
- We will be contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project as a CINC member and will manage the school's fiber network.
- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $60,000.

As a result of these grants, our organization will attain substantially upgraded broadband connectivity for school district students. This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management by CINC, our Community Area Network. Local network management allows community shareholders to collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, and provides for management of our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.

This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services. It will also improve broadband service to our schools and to areas that currently have limited access at best. It also provides added capability to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions.

Because this effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.
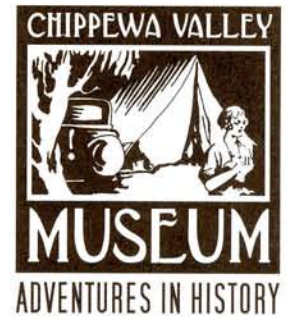
Sincerely,

Robert Scidmore
Director of Technology

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: **Letter of Support for BTOP Grant**

Dear **NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling**,

We understand that BTOP is considering *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB), an application from University of Wisconsin–Extension for comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption. Both of these purposes address critical needs in our community and we hope you will consider this request positively. Support for BCCB will extend efforts begun through the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), our local community area network. CINC was formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers to facilitate network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable.

Our organization is a community-based history museum. The mission of the **Chippewa Valley Museum** (CVM) is to increase public understanding of the history of the Chippewa River watershed, a 9,200-square mile in northwestern Wisconsin. To accomplish this, CVM collects, preserves, and interprets regional history and cultures. Accordingly, CVM has built an unparalleled collection of 19,513 artifacts and 25,760 images and documents. The collections lie at the heart of a lively interpretive program, which provides learning experiences for all ages. Increasingly, we conduct research and deliver programming electronically. In 2000, our website visitation was 21,300; by 2007, that number had nearly quintupled.

NEED:
CVM uses the internet to deliver information to the community, state and world; to share files with service providers and other institutions; and, to research source materials in other collections (such as the Minnesota Historical Society and the Library of Congress). Our current DSL service has been quite a step up for us. (We had ISDN service until the end of 2008.) Our bandwidth, however, is incapable of serving our website—cvmuseum.com—to 100,000 visitors. We pay a service provider a monthly fee for hosting storage in 50mb increments. Although CVM lies within the City of Eau Claire, its location as the sole year-round resident of Carson Park—a large, heavily wooded park on a peninsula in Half Moon Lake—makes us a kind of rural enclave. Similarly to underserved rural areas, the museum lacks access to various utilities, including broadband fiber service.

BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:
Implementing the BCCB project would greatly increase CVM's capacity and therefore the scope and impact of projects currently in development or underway, as indicated below.

- We have engaged in a multi-year digitization program to prepare CVM images and other collections information for on-line access. Certainly our method of delivery (and even our capacity to deliver new content at all) will depend on the availability of affordable bandwidth. Currently each increase in bandwidth demand requires more service from the outside. We must carefully consider additions to our website that require another 50 megabyte increment and the associated expense, even though our own internal server measures its storage in terabytes.
- With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Wisconsin Arts Board, we are developing content and community-engagement strategies for ChippePedia, a wiki for regional history and culture. Within this project, we are partnering with Altoona Middle School, whose 8th graders are developing articles for ChippePedia. With more capacity, CVM could extend this program to other regional schools, many of which are in extremely rural areas.
- CVM has an active publishing program and well-used internal design and editing capabilities. This work often necessitates transferring large files electronically. Current bandwidth limitations preclude gaining such common efficiencies as creating an FTP site, and makes uploading to others' file directories a slow process as well.
- CVM is a source of technical information for nearby local historical groups. (Just within a 45-mile radius of Eau Claire, there are 18 of these mostly volunteer groups.) With increased bandwidth, CVM would be able to spearhead projects to improve the quality of collections information management and information exchange among other local groups.

These projects and others will benefit greatly from the improved broadband service that BCCB will provide. Improved broadband would create new capabilities for communicating and transporting data, which would in turn improve our service delivery to museum patrons and the wider community. CVM provides meeting space and other services for related groups, such as the Eau Claire area genealogical society and the Historic Preservation Foundation-Eau Claire. Increased technical capabilities at CVM would also directly benefit these other organizations. We currently offer public internet access through one workstation in our library, and can offer data projection of websites to presenters in our auditorium, but providing networked, internet-accessible stations in our exhibit spaces, or hosting distance-learning sessions, are currently beyond us. We are interested in, and capable of, producing such content, but bandwidth precludes us from serving it to the public electronically.

Because of the high potential for positive benefits and opportunities for our community and museum patrons, the Chippewa Valley Museum strongly supports the University of Wisconsin–Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* application. Please contact me directly if further information would help you make a positive decision.

Sincerely,

Susan McLeod
Director

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.

March 9, 2010

Services
Available:

Advocacy

Job
Development

Employment
Counseling

Job Placement

Food Pantry

Information and
Referral

Housing and Home
Management
Assistance

Cultural
Orientation

Craft Shop

Cultural
Social Events

Outreach

Short-term
Counseling

Ethnic
Communication
Network

24 Hour Translation
Service

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Sustainable Adoption and Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant, *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"*

Dear Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* BTOP application for sustainable broadband adoption and Comprehensive Community Infrastructure.

These projects will greatly benefit our Hmong communities in western Wisconsin, particularly youth.

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. (ECAHMAA) was established in 1982 as a non-profit organization to provide services for refugees from Southeast Asia. The organization is committed to empowering Chippewa Valley Hmong-Americans to become socially and economically self-sufficient. It is the only agency in the area specializing in providing services tailored to Hmong cultural and linguistic needs. Through its services, ECAHMAA has provided Hmong-Americans with access to housing, health care, career, and resources to access educational opportunities. The organization also teaches job skills, strengthens family relationships, and promotes and preserves traditional customs.

Hmong History in the Chippewa Valley

The Hmong originally came from China and relocated in Laos. During the Vietnam War, the United States Central Intelligence Agency recruited the Hmong to work in a secret war operation against communism in Laos. As a result of this war, the Hmong suffered heavy losses. When the US withdrew from Laos, the communist government began to exterminate the Hmong for their loyalty to the United States. This persecution forced many Hmong to seek political asylum in

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.

Services Available:

Advocacy

Job Development

Employment Counseling

Job Placement

Food Pantry

Information and Referral

Housing and Home Management Assistance

Cultural Orientation

Craft Shop

Cultural Social Events

Outreach

Short-term Counseling

Ethnic Communication Network

24 Hour Translation Service

Thailand and subsequently to the US. The Hmong-Americans began arriving in the United States after 1975. Although America offered safety from the threat of communist persecution, life in a new country was not without its challenges. The ECAHMAA was established to help Hmong families and individuals overcome cultural shock, language barriers, lack of education, and lack of job skills. These issues are relevant for both recently arrived refugees and established residents. For the past two decades the ECAHMAA has been sensitive to the needs of both groups within the Hmong community.

Since the ECAHMAA started, the Hmong population has grown to over 3,000 in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties, making it the largest minority group in the area. Hmong refugees in the Eau Claire area have adjusted to an urban and highly technological lifestyle. Many still plant gardens and sell produce at the local farmers' market because of their strong agricultural background.

The ECAHMAA provides many programs to the Hmong community in the Chippewa Valley. These programs include: Employment & Training, Housing Program, Family Strengthening, Building Bridges, Social Services and the Partnership for Strong Family. Many of these programs depend upon broadband internet connectivity to some extent, but our current service is extremely slow.

High speed broadband internet connectivity would be a great benefit to our work. For example, we plan to offer summer computer courses and internet classes for our Hmong youth, but limits to our current connectivity are great. Our Building Bridges program would also benefit greatly by high speed connectivity. Because our Hmong Community Center is open after regular ECAHMAA business hours for meetings, workshops, and other activities, this new broadband connectivity would be a great benefit to our extended Hmong community and the general public in the Chippewa Valley.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP infrastructure project to build community capacity in the Chippewa Valley. CINC is a regional Community Area Network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers.

We are collaborating with CINC on this important endeavor because:

- It will provide high speed connectivity to our computer lab which is extensively used by the Hmong community and by our Hmong youth in particular.

Participating Agency
United Way

423 WISCONSIN STREET EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54703 (715) 832-8420 FAX: (715) 832-0612

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.

- It will increase our broadband capacity and enhance our many programs and allow us to provide added resources and educational resources to the Hmong community
- The University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* Sustainable Adoption project will provide educational opportunities to our youth
- This project will have a lasting impact on the lives of our boys and girls as a result of teaching them skills they need for fulfilling and rewarding work and personal lives.
- This program will provide us with in-kind donated computers and monitors from associate CINC members such as Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire).

As a collaborator in the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* BTOP project, we are supporting this effort by:

- Helping to identify an audience of Hmong adults and boys and girls interested in learning life and career skills using our new high speed broadband connectivity
- Working with the UW-Extension and other CINC members such as the Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) to help provide training to youth (and even training and equipping some of our youth to provide training to other boys and girls)
- Preparing and maintaining our computers for ECAHMAA use
- Assisting in the educational outreach component of the "Building Community Capacity through Broadband" project by providing our patrons with the proper educational equipment, curricula and training to utilize opportunities presented by our new high speed broadband access

As a collaborator, we hope our Hmong community members (particularly youth) will benefit from the following:

- Improved connectivity for our ECAHMAA computers
- Newer computer equipment in our computer lab (from in-kind donations through CINC) and possibly adding new computers
- Educational and training opportunities for our youth
- Additional resources for our young patrons, including:

  1. Helping members of the Hmong community identify and use career information online, use resources for basic resume writing and search for part-time/summer job
  2. Beginning Internet use for youth
  3. Social networking
  4. Health, wellness and recreational research

Services Available:

Advocacy

Job Development

Employment Counseling

Job Placement

Food Pantry

Information and Referral

Housing and Home Management Assistance

Cultural Orientation

Craft Shop

Cultural Social Events

Outreach

Short-term Counseling

Ethnic Communication Network

24 Hour Translation Service

Participating Agency
United Way

423 WISCONSIN STREET   EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54703   (715) 832-8420   FAX: (715) 832-0612

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.

5. Other age-appropriate research, education and usage for youth

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant.

Sincerely,

SiaCha Lor, Interim Director
Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.
423 Wisconsin Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703
Open Mon - Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Phone: (715) 832-8420 | Fax: (715) 832-0612

chaechmaa@yahoo.com

Services Available:

Advocacy

Job Development

Employment Counseling

Job Placement

Food Pantry

Information and Referral

Housing and Home Management Assistance

Cultural Orientation

Craft Shop

Cultural Social Events

Outreach

Short-term Counseling

Ethnic Communication Network

24 Hour Translation Service

Participating Agency
United Way

CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

140 Elm Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Ph: 715-720-3753
Fax: 715-726-2789
kowalssj@chipfalls.k12.wi.us

February 20, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's ***Building Community Capacity through Broadband***
(BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both
address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly
need to build community capacity in our Chippewa Falls area Unified Schools District in western Wisconsin.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley of
western Wisconsin. We are a member of CINC, a regional work group formed in 1999 to coordinate regional
communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries,
nonprofits, and technology providers to facilitate network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically
sustainable. CINC members, represented by chief information officers, include: Cooperative Educational Service Agency
10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City
of Chippewa Falls, City of Eau Claire, County of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Schools, and The Indianhead Federated Library
System. In addition, Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), St. Joseph's Hospital (Chippewa Falls) and Luther Midelfort (Eau
Claire) are associate CINC members.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because in education it is truly time to rethink our purpose and how
we connect to our students, parents and community. Our students are experiencing a much different educational
environment than their parents or even ourselves. Recent research from the project "Innovation in Educational
Technology: The Virtualization of K-12 and Higher Education" predicts that by 2014 close to 10 million K-12 students will
be enrolled in a virtual school or taking classes online. By supporting the BTOP grant not only will it help us meet the
needs of our students as they enter this online world. It will also:

- Allow us to offer broadband to our 4 year old kindergarten programs that are spread throughout our
  community. Specifically, this would allow access to our pre-school age children to an online curriculum that is
  shared throughout the district and also allow collaboration between staff on common assessments, data study
  and improved instructional strategies. All of this supports research that preparation of pre-school age children
  consistently shows them being more successful throughout elementary school both academically and socially.

- To share resources with other schools across the state. Specifically, we would be able to expand our distance learning programs with other K-12 districts across the state.   Instead of hiring a French teacher for 30 students, that is a cost we would be able to save by sharing it with another district.   We would be able to open up an entire new global curriculum to students that would prepare them for the workforce or post-secondary education.
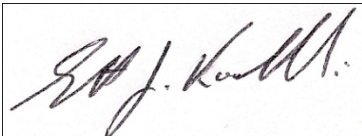
As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by:
- Participating in the Community Area Network to ensure usage of broadband technology within our organization
- Starting to train and certify our teaching staff through the Department of Public Instruction to be qualified to teach in an online environment.
- Working on identifying populations within our district that could benefit from broadband and educating them on to access information either from our district or educational resources that would benefit them. For example; adult literacy programs.

School districts around the country face an overwhelming challenge of preparing students for a workplace and post-secondary education that is constantly changing.   School funding models are not designed to meet these challenges; the BTOP grant would help bridge the gap for our district and several other districts through Wisconsin.   If the grant is now awarded, we will keep working towards our goals it is part of our strategic plan for our district. However, it will take more time to complete and opportunities for our students are being missed. Funding of the BTOP grant would allow us to capitalize on the stated objectives above in the near future, which would put us in the right direction of changing how we do things to prepare our students and communities for tomorrow.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Scott Kowalski
Director of Educational Technology
Chippewa Falls School District

Department of Family Medicine   715.839.5175
617 W. Clairemont Avenue   715.839.5176 Fax
Eau Claire, WI 54701

March 9, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical health and wellness needs for our community and will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.   This project will significantly benefit the patient care of UW-Family Health in Eau Claire and Augusta.

UW-Health is a Family Medicine residency clinic. In our facilities, resident physicians see patients and provide care under the direction of board-certified Family Medicine physicians. We are a partner with the University of Wisconsin Health Services and School of Medicine and Public Health.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because:
- This project will provide connectivity between our UW-Health Eau Claire facility (617 W. Clairemont Avenue in Eau Claire, WI) and our Augusta Family Medicine Clinic facility (located at 207 W. Lincoln Street in Augusta, WI)
- This project will also provide improved connectivity to other health facilities
- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to offer new or substantially upgraded service to critical access hospitals in rural and underserved areas.
- This BTOP project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other stakeholders, improving services within our community
- This project will save lives by improving public safety, EMS and healthcare service areas.

We are partnering with the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), a Community Area Network overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley. CINC was formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. CINC facilitates network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable. CINC members, represented by chief information

University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation
Faculty of the University of Wisconsin Medical School

officers, include: Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, County of Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District, City of Chippewa Falls, City of Eau Claire, County of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area Schools, hospitals and others.

As a partner in this project, we have financially contributed $20,000 in a cash match. This match will help provide high speed broadband connectivity to our Augusta Family Medicine Clinic facility (located at 207 W. Lincoln Street in Augusta, WI).

This project will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders (including schools and municipalities) can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, and manage our network for continued growth, long-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Lastly, this BTOP proposal will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

Because of the innovative benefits to health, safety and wellness from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Jerry Barton

Clinic Administrator

UW-Family Health Eau Claire Family Medicine

Dove Healthcare

West Location

March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Support

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to state my support for the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP application for comprehensive community broadband infrastructure. This project addresses critical health and wellness needs for our community that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in western Wisconsin.

We are a private partner in this public-private partnership. We are partnering on this important endeavor because:

- This BTOP project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and extend a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other stakeholders, improving services within our community.
- This project will improve healthcare delivery by extending fiber connectivity to healthcare providers such as Dove Healthcare, a large, for-profit, nursing home which includes:

  1. Dove Healthcare West, 1405 Truax Boulevard, Eau Claire (a 160-bed Medicare and Medicaid certified skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility providing both short-term and long-term care).
  2. Dove Healthcare South, 3656 Mall Drive, Eau Claire (a 50-bed Medicare certified short-term rehabilitation facility).
  3. Wissota Health and Regional Vent Center, 7490 156th St. Chippewa Falls (a 135-bed Medicare and Medicaid facility)

The Right Choice

www.dovehealthcare.com   **715-552-1030**
1405 Truax Blvd • Eau Claire, WI 54703   fax: 715-552-1033
Affiliated with Dove Healthcare - South, Orchard Hills, Rutledge Home, Wissota Health & Transitions Rehabilitation

Dove Healthcare is a partner of the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), which is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley. CINC is a regional local community area network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. Dove Healthcare works closely with three hospitals that are associate CINC members (Luther Midelfort/Mayo in Eau Claire, Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, and St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls). As a partner and collaborator in the CINC consortium, and a partner in this project to extend the CINC network, Dove Healthcare and other healthcare organizations will benefit from added broadband connectivity to better serve patients.

BENEFITS, OUTCOMES & SUSTAINABILITY:
Many educational critical lifesaving healthcare and applications today cannot work on anything less than ultra high speed broadband. Western Wisconsin is unable to move forward without the broadband infrastructure to enable these applications and technology.

This project will also allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness. Lastly, this BTOP proposal will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

Because of the innovative benefits to health, safety and wellness from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Jim Deignan, CEO
Dove Healthcare South &West and Affiliates

Amery Regional Medical Center

www.amerymedicalcenter.org

265 Griffin Street East
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-8000

DIVISIONS OF ARMC

ARMC Rehab Services
220 N Keller Avenue
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-1001

Behavioral Health Center
ARMC West Campus
230 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-0060

Clear Lake Clinic
357 Third Avenue
Clear Lake, WI 54005
(715) 263-3100

Luck Medical Clinic
137 First Avenue
Luck, WI 54853
(715) 472-2177

Luck PT & Fitness
2547 State Road 35, Suite 5
Luck, WI 54853
(715) 472-5225

the Fitness Center
220 N Keller Avenue
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-1008

Turtle Lake Medical Clinic
550 Martin Avenue
Turtle Lake, WI 54889
(715) 986-4101

Wound Healing Center
ARMC West Campus
230 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-0175

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

February 1, 2010

Amery Regional Medical Center is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide Amery Regional Medical Center with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Michael Karuschak, Jr., CEO, FACHE
Amery Regional Medical Center
715/268-0300

Our Lady of Victory Hospital
MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

Sponsored by Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

December 9, 2009

Our Lady of Victory Hospital, Inc. is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project may provide **Our Lady of Victory Hospital** with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Cindy Eichman, President
Our Lady of Victory Hospital
1120 Pine Street
Stanley, WI 54768
800-643-0554

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

January 26, 2010

Memorial Medical Center is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.
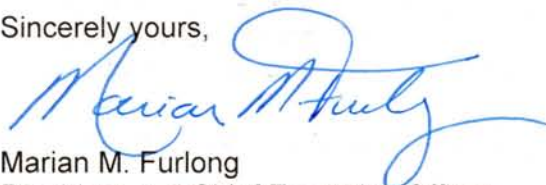
We agree this project will provide Memorial Medical Center with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Scott Polenz, CPA, MBA, NHA
Chief Executive Officer
216 Sunset Place
Neillsville, WI 54456
Phone: 715-743-8453

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

December 16, 2009

Hudson Hospital & Clinics is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide Hudson Hospital & Clinics with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.
- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.
- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.
- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
  Promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely yours,

Marian M. Furlong
President and Chief Executive Officer
715-531-6000

March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Letter of Commitment

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in the Spooner area.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because this proposed project will:

- Allow us in the Spooner area to have access to a substantial amount of bandwidth and capacity that is not currently available anywhere in our area.
- Deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions.
- Improve services by providing high speed connectivity for the transfer and use of Medical Images, Laboratory, Electronic Medical Records, and even make Telemedicine an option to provide improved patient services and save lives.
- Help to improve healthcare services.   It will allow Spooner Health System to upgrade technology to improve the health services available to area residents. This technology may include Digital Radiology and Telemedicine through the use of cameras, in which we can obtain real-time diagnostic information from tertiary care centers in larger communities.

In addition, the proposed project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key stakeholders, improving other municipal services within our community. This project will allow us in the Spooner area to become connected to a very large broadband network at speeds and capacity that are currently unavailable and allows our community to become more competitive.

The proposed projects will bolster growth in economically distressed areas. Spooner, Wisconsin, is no different than any other small/rural town with huge economic restraints especially in this

recession economy. Broadband connectivity will also allow larger companies to take a closer look at Spooner if we can provide them with the network bandwidth to operate their companies. We will also be able to offer our area residents more competitive services along with the ability to offer our school children the same internet advantages as bigger cities.

Our role as a partner includes:
- Contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project by working with all stakeholders in the in the area to assure that systems and processes are in place for a smooth implementation. We will also provide our IT personnel to support the technical aspects of this project.
- Contributing to the management and operation of the project by taking a lead role in our community organizing an oversight group to design and implement the network. We will also provide our technical people, one of which has many years experience in developing broadband networks as well as installing necessary equipment and hosting storage facility.
- We will be financially contributing to the cost of the project. We anticipate a commitment of $30,000 for a three year period.

Without this funding, Spooner and adjacent areas will continue to be at a competitive disadvantage in areas of commerce. Without connectivity, we will continue to be unable to provide the health care services that our area residents need and deserve. Creating a fiber optic network in the Spooner area will help us to save lives. This effort will:

- Enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and digital radiography, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. It will give us the reliable infrastructure that we currently lack to support the standard of care in rural areas.
- Make broadband service available to areas of the community that currently have sporadic access at best.
- Allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing our network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.
- Promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- Improve broadband service for our membership, or broadband service availability to areas of the state that currently have limited access at best, new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions
- Improve e-commerce capability, address much needed improvement in public safety and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity
- Create consumer demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- Help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

With BTOP funding, this proposed project will allow us in the Spooner area to become connected to a very large broadband network at speeds/capacity unavailable to us, allowing us to become more

competitive and more importantly being able to offer critical healthcare, education and municipal services that are currently unavailable to us due to bandwidth restrictions.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.
Sincerely,

Michael D. Schafer, CEO
Spooner Health System

Luther Midelfort

Mayo Health System

February 25, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: BTOP Grant Application Letter of Commitment: *Building Community Capacity through Broadband*

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in our area We are included in the Northeast Region of the Mayo Health System. Communities included this Northeast Region are Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Bloomer, Chetek, Cameron, Rice Lake, Barron, Colfax, Prairie Farm, Menomonie, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Mondovi and Osseo.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because
- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions.
- The proposed projects will improve services by providing high speed connectivity for the transfer and use of Medical Images, Laboratory, Electronic Medical Records, Women's Health Services and Telemedicine for our Healthcare Institutions in the communities listed above.

Our role as a key partner includes:
- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $600,000 over three years.

BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:

This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. In addition, this effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Luther Midelfort Vision is to achieve the highest standards for medical care and health improvement in the communities in which we live and work. This grant and our contribution to it will greatly benefit the health of our patients but also the community infrastructure and educational opportunities of those patients.

Our hospitals and clinics and the communities that will benefit are listed below:

- Luther Hospital-Eau Claire
- Midelfort Clinic-Eau Claire
- Chippewa Falls Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Chippewa Valley)-Chippewa Falls
- Bloomer Hospital and Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Chippewa Valley)-Bloomer
- Chetek Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Northland)-Chetek
- Cameron Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Northland)-Cameron
- Rice Lake Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Northland)-Rice Lake
- Barron Hospital and Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort –Northland)-Barron
- Mondovi Clinic (part of Luther Midelfort-Oakridge)-Mondovi
- Red Cedar Medical Center-Menomonie

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building *Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Todd Munden
Director of Information Systems
Luther Midelfort-Mayo Health System

✳ RWHC
Your partner. Your source.

February 9th, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Support for University of Wisconsin-Extension BTOP Grant (Chippewa Valley Pilot)

Dear Mr. Strickling:

On behalf of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC), and both of us personally, we are writing to enthusiastically support the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant applications for the following five pilot communities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation, Platteville, Superior, and Wausau. The pilots' applications involve comprehensive community infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption and will be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for BTOP funding under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).*

We understand that this collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We strongly support this initiative for three reasons:
(1) In Wisconsin, community and economic development is best accomplished through multi-sector collaboration such as is proposed in this application.
(2) The grant application it is congruent and coordinated with the larger statewide efforts to achieve meaningful use of health information technology.
(3) We support the Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) partnership in the Chippewa Valley pilot. HSHS has a good track record in Wisconsin.

Demonstration of Need
Per the priority review requirement of the BTOP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the RWHC formally validates a "demand" and indicates "a need for access" and "improved access to

broadband service" in rural areas of Wisconsin (NOFA at 13). Many rural critical access hospitals and clinics have little or no access to broadband to facilitate telemedicine and to share critical high bandwidth data (such as MRI or CT scans) with other healthcare providers.

RWHC is a member-owned network of 35 rural and community hospitals–one of the earliest and most successful models for collaboration among rural health providers in the country. Incorporated in 1979, RWHC provides a wide range of programs and services to members and non-members alike, including: advocacy, education, professional roundtables, financial consulting, legal services, coding consultation, quality programs, workforce development, health information technology resources, and various clinical services.

As a collaborative of rural hospitals, we are particularly grateful for the outstanding track record that the Hospital Sisters Health System has had in improving access to and availability of health services in many of our state's most vulnerable communities.

Given the innovative and highly positive benefits that may be derived from this effort, we respectfully request your consideration of the UW-Extension's grant request on behalf of the five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of this important BTOP grant application. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Size
Tim Size
RWHC Executive Director

Louis Wenzlow
Louis Wenzlow
RWHC Director of Health Information Technology

February 24, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

**RE: Letter of Support and Commitment for University of Wisconsin-Extension BTOP Grant
(Chippewa Valley Pilot)**

Dear Mr. Strickling:

As City Manager of the City of Eau Claire, I am writing to strongly support the University of
Wisconsin-Extension's "Building Community Capacity through Broadband" BTOP grant applications
for the following five pilot communities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation,
Platteville, Superior, and Wausau. The pilot applications involve comprehensive community
infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption, and will be submitted to the National
Telecommunications and Information Administration for BTOP funding under the *American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (*Recovery Act*).

BTOP Purpose: The City of Eau Claire is an integral anchor institution in the Chippewa Valley pilot.
Our interest in this BTOP grant opportunity is based on one of the program's purposes stated in the
Recovery Act of 2009 § 6001(b), 123 Stat. at 512–13, "…to improve access to, and use of, broadband
service by public safety agencies."

Chippewa Valley Pilot: The Chippewa Valley pilot is led by a community area network, a public and
private consortium known as the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). This
consortium is a regional work group formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication
infrastructure projects with city, county, and state government, educational institutions, libraries,
nonprofits, and technology providers. In addition to the City of Eau Claire, CINC members include:
- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Chippewa County, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District and the City of Chippewa Falls
- County of Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Area Schools
- Associate members include Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), St. Joseph's Hospital (Chippewa
  Falls) and Luther Midelfort/Mayo (Eau Claire)

Demonstration of Need, Commitment & Matching Funds: Per the priority review requirement of the BTOP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the City of Eau Claire formally validates a "demand" and indicates "a need for access" and "improved access to broadband service" (NOFA at 13).

As a public safety entity that is a critical community anchor institution in the Chippewa Valley pilot project, we will support this funded project with a cash match of $480,000, subject to funding through future appropriations towards a regional project, estimated at more than $12,000,000.

Public Safety Applications: Specifically, the proposed fiber ("ground") and Wi-Max/tower ("air") infrastructure in the Chippewa Valley project will provide:

- Mobile data communications county wide for Eau Claire EMS
- Mobile data communications for Police, Fire, and emergency government
- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for Police, Fire, and city operations
- Middle-mile connectivity for remote city facilities
- Interoperability between the many agencies providing public safety, fire, and emergency medical services for emergency and disaster communication and access to mission critical applications
- Middle-mile connectivity for twenty city nonprofit agencies serving disadvantaged and vulnerable populations such as free clinics, senior centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, museums, and arts centers.
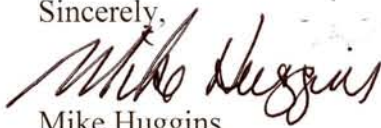
Voter Registration: In addition, this project will provide broadband connectivity to polling stations in the city and surrounding rural town halls to allow voter registration. This technology will leverage the current State of Wisconsin's Government Accountability Board Elections Division effort to provide onsite polling place registration and help eliminate voter fraud.

The BTOP grant applications for the following five pilot communities in Wisconsin will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders that have expressed a demand or indicated a need for access or improved access to broadband service.

Among the many advantages of this broadband project, it will advance constituents' community efforts in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations. It is a collaboration designed to meet the broadband network needs of both the public and private sectors, within urban and rural communities throughout western and parts of central Wisconsin.

Given the innovative and highly positive benefits that may be derived from this effort, I respectfully request your consideration of the UW-Extension's grant request on behalf of the five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Mike Huggins
City Manager

Attachment: February 23, 2010, City Council Resolution

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN AND PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (BTOP) GRANT APPLICATION.

WHEREAS, fiber optic connections are necessary for the current and future requirements of the City's networked systems, including emergency communications, phone system, document imaging system, payroll system, and GIS; and

WHEREAS, ownership of the fiber optic connections will result in significant cost savings for the City and other governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Extension grant application for broadband funding under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector and provide the rapid economic stimulus necessary to propel Wisconsin forward now and long into the future; and

WHEREAS, by participating as a partner in the UW-Extension grant application for a BTOP Grant, the City of Eau Claire will have access to grant funding for broadband infrastructure improvements in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire, that the City Council does hereby approve participation in the BTOP grant application, and pledges a $480,000 cash match subject to future appropriations and that the City Manager and City Clerk are authorized to execute all documents in connection herewith on behalf of the City.

Adopted,
February 23, 2010

(SEAL)_____
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL)_____
City Manager Mike Huggins

(ATTESTED)_____
City Clerk Donna A. Austad

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

02/22/2010

Abbotsford/Colby Area Chamber of Commerce is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.
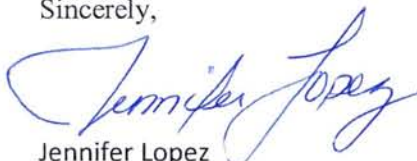
We agree this project will provide **Abbotsford/Colby Area Chamber of Commerce** with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lopez
Abbotsford/Colby Area Chamber of Commerce Co Secretary
715-223-3444 ext 102

Clark County Clerk's Office
Christina M. Jensen, Clerk • Gayle Vatne, Deputy Clerk
517 Court Street – Room 301
Neillsville, WI 54456-1994
Phone: (715) 743-5148   Fax: (715) 743-5154

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grade Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

January 28, 2010

Clark County is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide **Clark County** with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

[signed via email]

Christina M. Jensen
Clark County Clerk
(715) 743-5150

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
HOUSING

(715) 839-4943
Including Voice TDD
Fax: (715) 839-4939

AUTHORITY

March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

**RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Sustainable Adoption and Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
Grant, *"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"***

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's *"Building Community Capacity
through Broadband"* BTOP application for sustainable broadband adoption. This project addresses
critical needs for our communities in western Wisconsin through a project that will provide us with the
impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity.

Park Tower Apartments is a City of Eau Claire Housing Authority facility that provides affordable housing
to the elderly and disabled. Our mission is to provide decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing to
those who may have no other housing choice. Ours is an independent living facility. Internet access for
all tenants would be, yet, another way for our tenants to maintain their independence.

Park Tower Apartments provides space for agencies providing support services (such as energy
assistance, tax assistance, banking, benefits, etc.) and this space has no broadband connectivity. In
addition, staff offices at Park Tower Apartments have limited broadband connectivity. Enhanced
computer connectivity would help our staff to meet our goal of provide housing services to our tenants.

The City of Eau Claire is a member of the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). CINC is
overseeing the BTOP infrastructure project to build community capacity in the Chippewa Valley. CINC is
a regional Community Area Network formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication
infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries,
nonprofits, and technology providers. CINC's network expansion and creation is innovative, competitive,
and economically sustainable.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because:

- It will provide high speed connectivity to our office and residents which would improve their
  quality of life and provide connectivity to agencies and social workers that visit to assist with
  benefit eligibility
- This grant will have a lasting impact on the lives of our residents by possibly making Park Tower
  Apartments a Wi-Fi site.

- In addition to connectivity, this project can provide us with in-kind donated computers and monitors from associate CINC members such as Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire) for the use of our residents when agencies and social workers visit to assist with benefits eligibility.

As a participant, we hope our residents will see the following benefits and outcomes:

- Improved connectivity for information on benefits eligibility, education and e-commerce
- Newer computer equipment (from in-kind donations through CINC) and possibly a new terminal for use of agencies and social workers in a secured area

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, I strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Sincerely,

Keith D. Johnathan
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Eau Claire

LETTER OF COMMITMENT
for a
University of Wisconsin–Extension BTOP Grant – Chippewa Valley Pilot

March 2, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling:

As Chair of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express my commitment to the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant applications for the following five pilot communities in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation, Platteville, Superior, and Wausau. The pilots' applications involve comprehensive community infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption and will be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for BTOP funding under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (*Recovery Act*).

BTOP Purpose
Eau Claire County is an integral anchor institution in the Chippewa Valley pilot. Our interest in this BTOP grant opportunity is based on one of the program's purposes stated in the *Recovery Act of 2009* § 6001(b), 123 Stat. at 512–13, "…to improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies."

Chippewa Valley Pilot
The Chippewa Valley pilot is led by a community area network, a public and private consortium, known as the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). This consortium is a regional work group formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. In addition to Eau Claire County, CINC members include:

- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10)
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Our Mission
To provide quality, responsive services aimed at protecting the public safety, health and economic security of our residents and fostering our natural and cultural resources in a cost effective manner through innovation and leadership.

- Chippewa County
- Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District
- City of Chippewa Falls
- City of Eau Claire
- Eau Claire Area School District
- The Indianhead Federated Library System
- Associate members: Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), St. Joseph's Hospital (Chippewa Falls) and Luther Midelfort/Mayo (Eau Claire)

Demonstration of Need, Commitment & Matching Funds

Per the priority review requirement of the BTOP Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), Eau Claire County formally validates a "demand" and indicates "a need for access" and "improved access to broadband service" (NOFA at 13).

As a public safety entity that is a critical community anchor institution in the Chippewa Valley pilot project, we will support this funded project with a cash match of $350,000, subject to funding through future appropriations in 2011 and 2012, toward a regional project estimated at more than $12,000,000.

Specifically, the proposed fiber ("ground") and Wi-Max/tower ("air") infrastructure in the Chippewa Valley project will provide:

- Mobile data communications county wide for the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department.
- Mobile data communications for Police, Fire, and emergency government.
- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for Sheriff and Highway Department operations.
- Middle mile connectivity for remote county facilities.
- Interoperability between the many agencies providing public safety, fire and emergency medical services for emergency and disaster communication and access to mission critical applications.
- Middle mile connectivity for many nonprofit agencies serving disadvantaged and vulnerable populations such as free clinics, senior centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, museums and arts centers.

The BTOP grant applications for the five pilot communities in Wisconsin will deploy middle-mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders that have expressed a demand or indicated a need for access or improved access to broadband service.

Among the many advantages of this broadband project, it will advance constituents' community efforts in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations. It is a collaboration designed to meet the broadband network needs of both the public and private sectors, within urban and rural communities throughout western and parts of central Wisconsin.

Given the innovative and highly positive benefits that may be derived from this effort, I respectfully request your consideration of the UW-Extension's grant request on behalf of the five pilot communities in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Gregg Moore
Chair, Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors

CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Edward A. Kassing, Chief

Emergency Calls 911
Administration 715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation 715/839-4825
After Hours 715/839-5013
E-mail ....ecfire@eauclairewi.gov
City Website ....www.eauclairewi.gov

February 24, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for BTOP Project

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Eau Claire and surrounding rural areas of western Wisconsin.

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because the effort will expand bandwidth and improved broadband service to save lives. We know it can have long-lasting impact on our region's public safety, disaster preparedness and in the training and equipping of emergency personnel. As a collaborator we are supporting this effort by providing ongoing advice to expand EMS-related broadband technology within our organization.

This BTOP grant will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services that support life saving EMS city and county functions. This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas by enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. Without this funding, many outlying rural areas will have no Wi-Max wireless communications. This is a significant problem for our EMS first responders, such as our 12-lead EKG program to provide real-time ambulance communication of patient data to hospital emergency rooms. In a very real way, this technology helps save lives.

The following is a list of our partner agencies in the region. We share in training, response exercises, multiple agency emergency responses and mutual aid, and disaster preparedness efforts. All would significantly benefit from this grant:

HazMat Partners
- Rice Lake Fire Department
- Menomonie Fire Department
- Chippewa Falls Fire Department
- Eau Claire Fire Department

County Fire Chief Partners
- Altoona Fire Department
- Township Fire Department
- Fall Creek Area Fire Department
- Augusta/Bridge Creek Fire Department
- Fairchild Fire Department

County First Responder Partners
- Altoona First Responders
- Emergicare First Responders
- Fall Creek Area First Responders
- Augusta/Bridge Creek First Responders
- Fairchild First Responders

Emergency Medical Partners
- Eau Claire Fire Rescue
- Osseo Area Ambulance
- Boyd/Edson/Delmar Ambulance
- Chippewa Fire District Ambulance
- Chippewa Falls Fire Ambulance
- Colfax Ambulance
- Mondovi Ambulance

Hospital/Medical Clinic Partners
- Sacred Heart Hospital Eau Claire
- Luther/Mayo Hospital Eau Claire
- Marshfield Clinic Eau Claire
- Osseo Hospital Osseo
- St. Joes Hospital Chippewa Falls
- Red Cedar Medical Center Menomonie

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits of this grant application in supporting EMS services in the city of Eau Claire and Eau Claire County, I strongly support this project and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Edward Kassing, Fire Chief

1304 N. Hillcrest Parkway, Suite B, Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: 715-834-9672 Fax: 715-834-8663 Email: rivercountry@rivercountryrcd.org
www.rivercountryrcd.org River Country is on Facebook: Become a Fan Today!

Mission: "Enhance quality of life by promoting collaborative efforts that protect and conserve our human, natural, and economic resources."

February 26, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20230

RE: Support of BTOP Grant, "Building Community Capacity through Broadband"

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We write to you today to support University of Wisconsin – Extension's **Building Community Capacity through Broadband** (BCCB) BTOP applications, for comprehensive community infrastructure and for sustainable broadband adoption. Both address critical needs for our rural communities and agricultural economies in western Wisconsin and build community capacity.

River Country RC&D is a non-profit (501 c 3) organization serving twelve counties in West Central, WI. Our role is to be a catalyst; encouraging sustainable economic development, conserving natural resources, and empowering people to bring about positive change. The Council focuses on assisting projects that improve the sustainability and economic well-being of our communities and farms

Chippewa Valley Pilot: The Chippewa Valley portion of this project is led by a community area network known as the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC). This consortium is a regional public and private consortium formed in 1999 to coordinate regional communication infrastructure projects with city, county, and state government, educational institutions, libraries, nonprofits, and technology providers. CINC members include:
- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Chippewa County, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District and the City of Chippewa Falls
- County of Eau Claire, City of Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Area Schools
- Associate members include Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), St. Joseph's Hospital (Chippewa Falls) and Luther Midelfort/Mayo (Eau Claire)

We support this effort because broadband connectivity is needed to increase the economic capacity of our agricultural community. Rural and small towns are underserved with broadband. They are at a disadvantage economically in a wired world. It's hard to run even a internet basic application with dial-up connections, and almost impossible to take advantage of websites, on-line classes, and social media. Broadband connectivity can have long-lasting impact on how people live and work in the agricultural community.

BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:

- As a result of these grants, broadband service will be made available to areas of the community that currently have sporadic access at best.
- This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management where community shareholders can collaboratively improve network performance and capacity according to demand, managing their network for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness.
- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.
- This effort will improve e-commerce capability and ensure sustainable community growth and prosperity
- This effort will create consumer broadband demand and enable other service providers to serve the community.
- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Richard Purdy, PhD
River Country RC&D

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

January 20, 2010

Chippewa Valley Hospital is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide Chippewa Valley Hospital with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Douglas Peterson
Chippewa Valley Hospital
1220 Third Avenue, P.O. Box 224
Durand, WI 54736

CCEDC

Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau

CLARK COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

301 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 236
Loyal, WI 54446
www.clark-cty-wi.org

phone 715-255-9100 • fax 715-255-9153
tourism info 888-CLARK-WI
clarkwi@tds.net

LETTER OF SUPPORT
for a
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Grant Application to Support Rural Broadband in Western Wisconsin

2/5/2010

Clark County Economic Development Corporation is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.
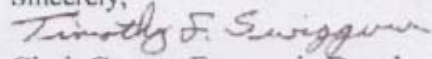
We agree this project will provide Clark County Economic Development Corporation with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.

- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.

- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.

- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.

- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.
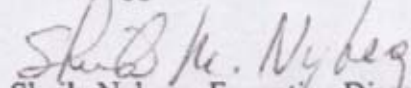
We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Swiggum

Clark County Economic Development Corporation
Tim Swiggum, President

Sheila M. Nyberg

Sheila Nyberg, Executive Director

301 N. Main
P.O. Box 236
Loyal, WI 54446
715-255-9100

Chuck Rueth, Vice-President	Chamber/Agriculture, Loyal
Diane Feiten, Secretary	Individual, Colby
Linda Susa, Treasurer	Chamber/Econ.Dev., Greenwood
Steve Amacher	Clark County
Betty Dallas	Individual, Thorp
Ken Dix	Chamber/Econ.Dev., Colby
John Gaier	Education, Neillsville
Greg Glisczinski	Business, Neillsville
Thom Gorst	Village of Granton
Arlan Hamm	Village of Curtiss
Dick Hunsader	Village of Dorchester
Dave Jankoski	City of Stanley
John Knox	Chamber/Econ.Dev., Greenwood
Dennis Kramer	Chamber/Econ.Dev., Abbotsford
Carol Lampsa	City of Loyal
Jim Leonhardt	Individual, Owen
Everett Lindgren	Village of Withee
Jim Maurina	Business, Dorchester
Don Meyer	Business, Dorchester
Diane Murphy	City of Neillsville
Donald Pentz	City of Greenwood
Jim Schecklman	City of Greenwood
James Schmidt	City of Colby
Sue Sossaman	City of Abbotsford
Robert Steinwagner	Village of Unity
Ray Teclaw	City of Thorp

Baldwin
Area
Medical Center, Inc.

Administration
730 10th Avenue
Baldwin, WI 54002

January 21, 2010

Mr. Anthony Wilhelm, Director
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce, HCHB, Room 4887
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium BTOP Grant Application for Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Public Computer Centers, and Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

Baldwin Area Medical Center is an interested partner in the Wisconsin grant application for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This collaboration is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector in metropolitan cities and rural areas. In addition to providing low cost and secure high quality communications to hospitals and clinics (far beyond commercial internet services), this same broadband network would benefit schools, city and county municipalities and libraries.

We agree this project will provide Baldwin Area Medical Center with access to a robust broadband infrastructure allowing us to meet the many challenges of our new information economy.

The broadband funding project provides high speed internet access for our community that will:

- **Advance our community's efforts** in healthcare, education, research, and effective governmental operations.
- **Enhance lifesaving treatment** and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information.
- **Create local jobs** by keeping support services within the community, generate broadband-related jobs, enhance our community's ability to attract and enable modern competitive businesses that require high performing broadband, and support local business entrepreneurs who require web access.
- **Allow for cost savings** through local network ownership where community shareholders can freely improve network performance and capacity according to demand and to manage the network for continued growth and long-term cost efficiencies.
- **Promote community collaboration and efficiency** through cost and resource sharing, improved face-to-face and virtual communication, redundant infrastructure and integrated, innovative and accessible services.

We believe this innovative opportunity will provide Wisconsin with the broadband infrastructure to both achieve and sustain economic recovery. With the support of this grant, we look forward to participating in collaborative efforts with partners to develop a robust broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Alison H. Page, CEO
Baldwin Area Medical Center