ECB Educational
Communications
Board

**Wisconsin Public Broadcasting
and Media Serving You**

Education Services
Wisconsin Public Radio
Wisconsin Public Television

Gene Purcell, Executive Director

March 9, 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 DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling and NTIA Grant Reviewers,

I'm writing today to let you know of the Educational Communications Board (ECB) 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.

In addition to ECB's support of BCCB, the agency has also committed to a long-term lease with the Chippewa Valley Internet Working Consortium through ECB's EBS spectrum licenses with Eau Claire's Geographic Service Area (GSA). Furthermore, ECB has also committed to providing the time of its Executive Director to serve on the BCCB Oversight Board.

As Wisconsin's telecommunications agency, ECB's staff is charged with producing and distributing educational and public service media through a variety of platforms including Internet delivery.

Because of ECB's close relationships with Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction and K-12 school districts throughout the state, ECB's staff is keenly aware of the challenges that many Wisconsin educators and students face in accessing quality educational material over the Internet. The challenge of accessing affordable, high-speed Internet is found in many parts of the state—especially in rural areas.

ECB staff has been working closely with the University of Wisconsin-Extension, WiscNet (Wisconsin's research and education network), UW Colleges, UW System and UW Madison in developing applications to this point, and I want to assure you of ECB's continued investment of staff time and expertise in the project.

The Educational Communications Board exists to serve the citizens of the state of Wisconsin with high quality educational and public service media and it is our belief that this project will be a giant step forward in our ability to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Gene Purcell
Executive Director

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW - Extension

March 11, 2010

Chippewa Valley
Inter-
Networking
Consortium

Ross N. Wilson
(Fiscal Agent, CINC)
Director, Educational
 Technology Services (CESA 10)
725 West Park Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
v: 715.720.2029
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Daren Bauer
(Technical Agent, CINC)
Network Engineer-
 Technical Services
Learning & Technology Services
University of Wisconsin-
 Eau Claire
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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 In-Kind Commitment and Support for BTOP CCI Grant,
***"Building Community Capacity through Broadband"* grant application by the**
UW–Extension

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We are writing to you to state our commitment to University of Wisconsin
– Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* Comprehensive
Community Infrastructure (CCI) application. We are one of five pilot communities
in Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley, Menominee Nation, Platteville, Superior, and
Wausau. This proposal address critical urban and rural community needs through
a regional project that will provide western Wisconsin with the support we greatly
need to launch new Community Area Networks (CANs) and extend infrastructure to
build community broadband capacity.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP
Chippewa Valley and western Wisconsin pilot project to extend its network into
underserved and unserved areas. 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 facilitates network creation that is innovative,
competitive, and economically sustainable. It currently has 76 miles of fiber and
proposes in this grant project to add 200 miles of new fiber. CINC members include:

- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10), the University of
  Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Chippewa Valley Technical College (including campuses in Eau Claire and
  Menomonie)
- Chippewa County, Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District and the City of
  Chippewa Falls
- City of Eau Claire, 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)

Our proposed pilot project in the Chippewa Valley and western and north central
Wisconsin will bring high speed broadband connectivity to municipalities to
enhance local government's capacity to deliver critical public services including
health, safety, emergency medical and disaster preparedness. Expanded connectivity
will also serve public service nonprofits and the public, and provide

countless new opportunities in employment, education, health care, entrepreneurship, and civic participation.

Demonstration of Need: For many in our region, the possibility of falling behind in the knowledge-based economy is already having an economic and educational impact. Without educational and career opportunities provided by broadband and the ability of businesses to reach new markets and improve efficiency, many of our rural and small town communities are struggling to keep and attract new industries and even residents. This grant proposal will spur private investment, connect critical community institutions, and bring opportunities to underserved and unserved rural and urban areas.

Our 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 to improve educational, social service, economic development, and public works services. This proposed BTOP project in our region will provide new and substantially upgraded broadband connectivity to critical city and county transportation, educational, public parks and public works facilities.

Commitment & Matching Funds: As the principle CAN and community anchor institution in this project, our role as a key partner includes:

- Supporting this funded project with an in-kind match of $1,642,068.
- Contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project.
- Providing technical assistance and consulting in CAN development and support for sustainability in rural and other disadvantaged outlying areas including: Rice Lake; Spooner/Shell Lake; Chetek; Menomonie; Altoona; Fall Creek; Augusta; and Mondovi.
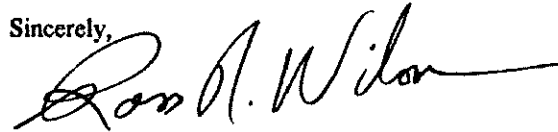
Sustainability: This project follows the BTOP comprehensive communities model with a focus on the deployment of Middle Mile broadband facilities and the provision of new or substantially upgraded connections to community anchor institutions. To further ensure sustainability, these anchor institutions are members or partners in Community Area Networks (CANs), like CINC, that are forming or will form with CINC nurturing and support. This CAN model will leverage resources and ensure sustainable community growth. With over a decade of experience, CINC is uniquely positioned to nurture and support the coordination and launch of other CANs.

A Best Practice Model for Added Sustainability: The CINC CAN model provides added sustainability to the project because it will help other CANs build a collaborative infrastructure using CINC's "no- or low-ownership" model (a model resembling a condo association or investment club). CINC has demonstrated role model CAN sustainability by utilizing inter-governmental agreements and memorandums of understanding so that if one party should ever disengage, the absence does not diminish the operability and connectivity and infrastructure enjoyed by the other parties. This CINC consortium model (with minimal member fees for maintenance only) allows each key anchor point partner to be invested to act together to provide ongoing maintenance for a shared infrastructure that meets each party's needs, enabling organizations to provide greater and more dependable service at less cost to stakeholders and customers. When all CAN members collaboratively share network maintenance

and support costs, this unique model functions collaboratively to sustainably serve the needs of the public. Once launched, these CANS will have their own "inertia" to create and direct their own sustainable network, because CAN members "own" their infrastructure and future.

Our project will bolster growth in economically distressed areas without high speed broadband connectivity, deploy broadband infrastructure to serve educational needs of disadvantaged rural areas and small towns, and improve services in public safety and economic development. This BTOP pilot will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, and provide redundant infrastructure with integrated, innovative and accessible services. Because of these innovative and highly positive benefits, we strongly support this project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant application.
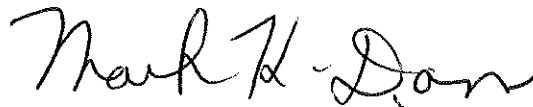
Sincerely,

Ross Wilson (CESA 10), CINC Fiscal Agent

Daren Bauer (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), CINC Technical Agent

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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.

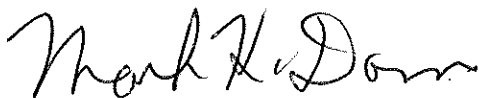Our hospitals and clinics and the communities that will benefit are listed below:

- 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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.
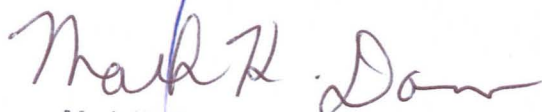
Sincerely,

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

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.
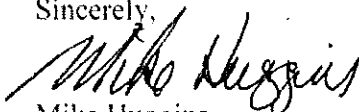
Voter Registration: In addition, this project will provide broadband connectivity to polling stations in the city and surrounding rural town halls to allow voter registration. This technology will leverage the current State of Wisconsin's Government Accountability Board Elections Division effort to provide 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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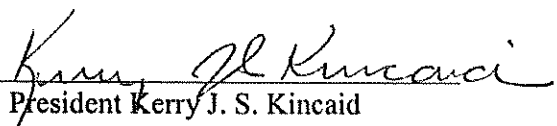
WHEREAS, the UW-Extension grant application for broadband funding under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant is designed to advance the broadband network needs of both the public and private sector and provide the rapid economic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

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: Letter of Commitment for University of Wisconsin-Extension BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling:

As the Chippewa County Administrator, I offer my strong support for the University of Wisconsin –
Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) BTOP grant application which
includes the pilot program for the Chippewa Valley. The pilot 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*). As a former Chief of Staff to a U.S.
Senator, I fully understand the importance of letters of support from communities, and hope that you
will review closely the letters from those organizations in the Chippewa Valley that are willing to support
this important program.

BTOP Purpose
Chippewa County is one of the integral anchor institutions 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
Chippewa County, CINC members include:
- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10)
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District
- City of Chippewa Falls
- City of Eau Claire
- County of Eau Claire
- Eau Claire Area Schools
- 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), Chippewa 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 have projected funds a part of our capital budget in the amount of $364,000, subject to funding through future appropriations towards a regional project, estimated at more than $14,000,000.

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

- Mobile data communications for Police, Fire, and emergency government
- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for Police, Fire, and county 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 nonprofit agencies serving disadvantaged and vulnerable populations such as free clinics, senior centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, museums, and arts centers.

In addition, this project will provide broadband connectivity to polling stations in the county 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 application 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this innovative proposal.
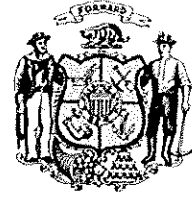
Sincerely,

William Reynolds
County Administrator

Mark K. Dom
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

Enrolled No. R153-105 RESOLUTION Substitute Amendment #1
to File No. 09-10/150

-APPROVING THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A UW-EXTENSION BTOP GRANT
APPLICATION, PLEDGING A $350,000 CASH MATCH SUBJECT TO FUTURE BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS IN 2011 AND 2012 AND AUTHORIZING THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE
COUNTY -

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocates $4.7 billion for the
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), supporting the deployment of
broadband infrastructure into unserved and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Extension grant application for broadband funding is designed to
advance the broadband network adoption of both the public and private sectors and provide the
rapid economic stimulus necessary to propel Wisconsin forward now and long into the future;
and

WHEREAS, UW-Extension is coordinating and providing grant-writing resources for a
statewide broadband infrastructure application consisting of projects proposed by five pilot
communities, including the Chippewa Valley (CINC); and

WHEREAS, although CINC has infrastructure in place and great potential, this grant
could provide funding to improve our infrastructure and to meet many critical current and future
needs; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Extension grant application process requires a 20% cash match and
the county's proposed cash match consists of $50,000 budgeted in 2010 for CINC-related
projects and an additional $300,000 subject to future budget appropriations in 2011 and 2012 not
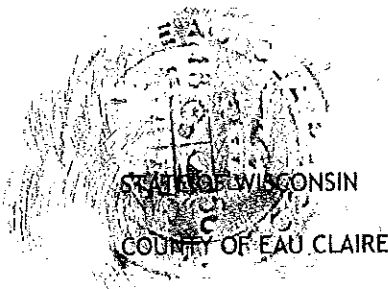to exceed a total match of $350,000; and

WHEREAS, the county's contribution of $350,000 will leverage $1.75 million in funding
for projects in Eau Claire County. In total the CINC application will request more than $12
million with a combined 20% local match; and

WHEREAS, by participating as a partner in the UW-Extension grant application for a
BTOP grant, Eau Claire County will have access to a robust broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the applications for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program are
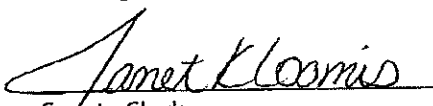due for submission between February 16, 2010 and March 15, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the letter of support for a UW-Extension BTOP grant application, pledge a $350,000 cash match subject to future budget appropriations in 2011 and 2012 and authorize the Eau Claire County administrator to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the county.

ADOPTED: March 2, 2010

STATE OF WISCONSIN   ss

COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE

     I, Janet K. Loomis, County Clerk in and for said county, do HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on March 2, 2010.

Janet K Loomis

County Clerk

WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD
TECHNICAL
WITC 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

March 12, 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 Mr. Strickling and NTIA Grant Reviewers,

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 in western Wisconsin. This project will significantly benefit three Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) campuses in Menomonie and Eau Claire.

CVTC delivers superior, progressive technical education which improves the lives of students, meets the workforce needs of the region, and strengthens the larger community. Our mission will be significantly strengthened by this broadband project.

This BTOP proposal will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, and provide integrated, innovative and accessible services to the following CVTC campuses (campuses that do not currently benefit from a high speed network with redundancy):

- **CVTC Menomonie Campus** (located in the Stout Technology Park at 403 Technology Park Drive in Menomonie, WI)
- **CVTC Eau Claire Gateway Campus** (featuring the Manufacturing Education Center at 2320 Alpine Road and the NanoRite Innovation Center at 2322 Alpine Road). NanoRite is CVTC's newest facility that is built to accommodate the development of business start-ups for Nanotechnology, Microfabrication, and other advanced technologies. The facility is the first of its kind in the region.
- **CVTC Eau Claire West Campus** (comprised of two buildings, the Emergency Services Education Center at 3623 Campus Road and the Transportation Education Center at 4000 Campus Road)

CVTC is a member of the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), the Community Area Network overseeing this project in western Wisconsin. 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.

An affirmative action employer and educational institution.

Bruce A. Barker
President

We are collaborating on this important endeavor because it is innovative and will significantly benefit CVTC students and programs with 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.

Our role as a partner in this project includes financially contributing to the cost share of fiber infrastructure in the planned amount of $125,000 over the grant period, pending final budget approvals.

We are also supporting this effort through our CINC partnership to contribute to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project in providing connectivity to the above referenced CVTC facilities. This collaboration will benefit the CVTC network to benefit leading edge 20th century academic study, teaching and research.
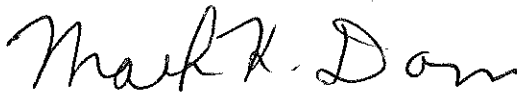
Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, we strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin–Extension's Building Community Capacity through Broadband grant applications.

Sincerely,

Tom Huffcutt
Vice President, Operations
Chippewa Valley Technical College

.c   Jerry Bishop, CVTC CIO
        David Mortimer, Communications Dept
        Sacred Heart Hospital
        900 W. Clairemont Avenue
        Eau Claire, WI 54701-6122

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

Spooner Health System

Hospital
Fax: 715-635-6846

Nursing Home
Fax: 715-635-7498

Home Care
Fax: 715-635-8567

March 18, 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

819 Ash Street
Spooner, WI 54801
Phone: (715) 635-2111
www.spoonerhealthsystem.com

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. <u>We anticipate a commitment of $30,000 each year over a three year period (a total of $90,000) to the project's cost.</u>

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. <u>Creating a fiber optic network in the Spooner area will help us to save lives.</u> This effort will:
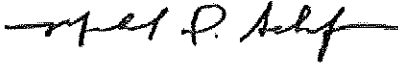
- Enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and digital radiography, enabling high-speed exchange of critical emergency medical information. It will give us the reliable infrastructure that we currently lack to support the standard of care 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

March 19, 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 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 and partner in this project, we are supporting this effort by:
- <u>Contributing financially to the cost share of fiber infrastructure to the Beaver Creek Reserve (Fall Creek, WI) and Wi-Max in the amount of $15,000 over two years.</u> Beaver Creek Reserve is the location of a University science center and telescope. The Wildlands School, also located on the site, is a public charter science school The Reserve includes a nature center, observatory telescope, butterfly house, observatory, youth camp, nature store, citizen science center, and field research station. With fiber and Wi-

Max, broadband connectivity will be made available to areas of this community that currently have no access (or sporadic access at best).

- <u>Contributing financially to the cost share of fiber to our Marshfield site located with St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, WI in the amount of $60,000 over two years.</u> This will allow us to better educate our Nursing students because of the bandwidth that fiber allows we could run multiple distance education classrooms thus allow more Nursing students to take classes in Marshfield.
- 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

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. It will also help shape realistic models of broadband deployment and tremendously expand educational resources for our community.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits of connectivity to our K-12 schools and our universities and technical collages, 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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. The area includes 241 square miles of mostly rural and small town areas, mostly with no broadband connectivity. 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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,

We are writing to you 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 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin –
Extension

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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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.
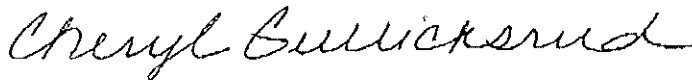
Our role as a partner organization includes:

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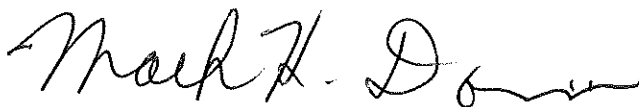
This BTOP effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative, and accessible services. Broadband connectivity will tremendously expand educational resources for our school community.

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
District Administrator
School District of Mondovi

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin –
Extension

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

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.
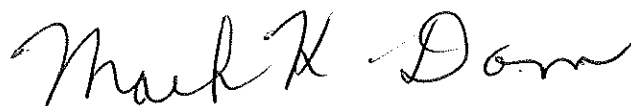
Sincerely,

Jerry Barton

Clinic Administrator

UW-Family Health Eau Claire Family Medicine

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

March 11, 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 University of Wisconsin-Extension BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

As the City of Chippewa Falls's Director of Public works, City Engineer and Utility Manager, I am writing to you to strongly support the University of Wisconsin – Extension's *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* (BCCB) 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, 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

The City of Chippewa Falls 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 City of Chippewa Falls, CINC members include:

- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 (CESA 10)
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Chippewa Falls Area Unified Schools District
- Chippewa County
- City of Eau Claire
- County of Eau Claire
- Eau Claire Area Schools
- 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), the City of Chippewa 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, the City of Chippewa will support this funded project with a cash match of $20,000, subject to funding through future appropriations approved by the City of Chippewa Falls Common Council towards a regional project, estimated at more than $14,000,000.

Specifically, the proposed fiber ("ground") and Wi-Max/tower ("air") infrastructure in the Chippewa Valley project will provide:
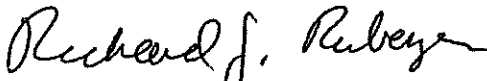
- Mobile data communications for Police, Fire, and emergency government
- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for Police, Fire, and county operations
- Middle-mile connectivity for remote county facilities
- Interoperability between the many agencies providing public safety, fire, and emergency medical services for emergency and disaster communication and access to mission critical applications
- Middle-mile connectivity for nonprofit agencies serving disadvantaged and vulnerable populations such as Irvine Park, free clinics, senior centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, museums, and arts centers.

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.
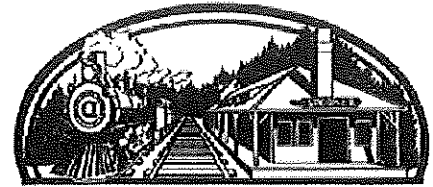
Sincerely,

Richard J. Rubenzer, PE
City of Chippewa Falls
Director of Public Works, City Engineer, Utilities Manager

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

City of Spooner

Gary J. Cuskey
Mayor

Debbie Koehn
Clerk-Treasurer

515 North Summit Street
P.O. Box 548
Spooner, Wis. 54801-0548
(715) 635-8769
FAX (715) 635-9319

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 are writing to you 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 City of Spooner (population 2,653) and the northwestern region of Wisconsin.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP pilot project. We are partnering in this project with 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. CINC facilitates network creation that is innovative, competitive, and economically sustainable.

<u>CINC has also offered to directly support the development of a Spooner area Community Area Network (CAN) that will bring significant benefit to the City of Spooner, the Spooner Health System hospital the Spooner School District and the County of Washburn</u>. This grant project will help benefit municipality, industry and healthcare in Spooner:

- Seven full-time police officers and a full-time dispatcher
- Six street crew employees
- Five utility employees-sewer, water and electric
- Four City Hall employees
- 34 volunteer firefighters and 1 full time Fire Chief in the Spooner Fire District
- Public Library
- Seven Public Parks
- School System
- Clinic, hospital and nursing home

This 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 to improve educational, social service, economic development, and public works services in the City of Spooner.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because the proposed project will provide new and substantially upgraded broadband connectivity to critical county transportation, educational, public parks and public works facilities. Specifically, in the City of Spooner, the proposed projects will:

- Bolster growth in economically distressed areas without high speed broadband connectivity
- Deploy broadband infrastructure to serve educational needs of disadvantaged rural areas and small towns
- Improve services in public safety by connecting our street and utility shops to the city hall server
- Promote economic development activities in our new industrial park which is directly south of the Washburn County Highway facility
- Share buying power and technology with new partners so that collectively we can afford what individually would be impossible

Our role as a key partner includes:

- As a community anchor institution in this project, we will support this funded project with a cash match of $20,000 over three years.
- As a CINC partner, we will be contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project.

As a result of these grants, the City of Spooner will attain improved broadband access (where broadband is currently nonexistent or sporadic at best). This effort will help launch a Community Area Network (CAN) in Spooner, promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, and provide redundant infrastructure with integrated, innovative and accessible services.

Because of these innovative and highly positive benefits to the City of Spooner and surrounding towns and rural areas, 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,

Gary J. Cuskey, Mayor
City of Spooner

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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
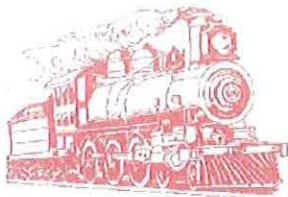
Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

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:

- 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

Building Community Capacity through Broadband
(BCCB) Supplemental Information

Key Partners-Letters of Commitment

Statewide

WiscNet	David Lois	Executive Director
CCI Systems	John Jamar	President and Chief Executive Officer
University of Wisconsin System	Kevin Reilly	President
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	David Vieth	Director, Bureau of Highway Operations
University of Wisconsin Extension	Steve Wildeck	Vice Chancellor
DoIT Division of Information Technology UW-Madison	Ronald Kraemer	CIO and Vice Provost for Information Technology
Wisconsin Educational Communications Board	Gene Purcell	Executive Director

Chippewa Valley

Chippewa Valley Inter Networking Consortium (CINC)	Ross Wilson	CESA 10, CINC Fiscal Agent
Chippewa Valley Inter Networking Consortium (CINC)	Daren Bauer	UW-Eau Claire, CINC Technical Agent
Luther Midelfort Hospital/Mayo Health System	Todd Munden	Director of Information Systems
Hospital Sisters Health System Division (Western WI)	Stephen Ronstrom	President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Joseph's Hospital	Dave Fish	President and Chief Executive Officer
City of Eau Claire, Office of the City Manager	Mike Huggins	City Manager
Chippewa County Department of Administration	William Reynolds	County Administrator
Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors	Gregg Moore	Chair
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College	John Will	Vice President, Administrative Services
Chippewa Valley Technical College	Tom Huffcutt	Vice President, Operations
Spooner Health System	Michael Schafer	Chief Executive Officer
University of Wisconsin-Stout	Charles Sorensen	Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Chip Eckardt	Chief Information Officer
Eau Claire Area School District	Robert Scidmore	Director of Technology
Rice Lake Area School District	Thomas Lange	District Technology Coordinator
School District of Altoona	Kathy Dahl	Business Manager
School District of Mondovi	Cheryl Gullicksrud	District Administrator
UW Health, Eau Claire Family Medicine Clinic	Jerry Barton	Clinic Administrator
City of Chippewa Falls	Richard Rubenzer	Director of Public Works, City Engineer
City of Spooner	Gary Cuskey	Mayor
Cooperative Education Services Agency, CESA 10	Ross Wilson	Director, Education Technology Services
Spooner Area School District	Donald Haack	Superintendent
Chippewa Area Catholic Schools	Chad Ronnander	President
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District	Tammy Lenbom	Business Manager
Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District	Scott Kowalski	Director of Educational Technology
School District of Fall Creek	Chuck Kukura	Technology Coordinator
Chippewa Valley Regional Airport	Charity Speich	Airport Manager
Indianhead Federated Library System	John Thompson	Executive Director
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic	Brent Hafele	Executive Director

Superior

University of Wisconsin-Superior	Julius Erlenbach	Chancellor

Platteville

University of Wisconsin-Platteville	Duane Merlin Ford	Provost and Vice-Chancellor (Interim)
City of Platteville	Barbara Daus	Common Council President
School District of Platteville	Dean Isaacson	District Administrator

Wausau

Northcentral Technical College	Lori Weyers	President
Marathon County Board of Supervisors	Keith Langenhahn	Chair
City of Stevens Point	Andrew Halverson	Mayor
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	Mark Nook	Chancellor (Interim)
Wausau City-County Information Technology Commission	Gerard Klein	Director

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

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 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 pupils to as many as 10,000 pupils 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:

- Committing $20,000 from CESA 10 for this project's implementation of WiMax. The WiMax infrastructure will allow us to pilot deployment of broadband to families of students that cannot afford internet access in any other way. We plan to collaborate with our ESEA Title I partners within CESA 10 to identify pilot households within the WiMax footprint.

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

- 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.
- Assisting in the educational outreach component of BCCB by:
    1. Delivering training to our identified underserved populations utilizing materials designed by UW-Extension
    2. 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 of broadband access to raise student achievement and increase efficiencies, we 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,

Ross N. Wilson
Director, Educational Technology Services CESA 10

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

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 Commitment for BTOP Grant

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

We are writing to you 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 applications address critical public and private education needs for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. CINC is 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.

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 preschool through high school age students, teachers, and staff in our three Chippewa Area Catholic Schools buildings:

- St. Charles Borromeo Primary School, 429 W. Spruce St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
- Holy Ghost Elementary School, 436 S. Main St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
- Notre Dame Middle School, McDonell Central Catholic High School, and CACS Central Office, 1316 Bel Air Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Altogether, this project will directly serve more than 500 students, 55 teachers, and 35 support staff.

The Chippewa Area Catholic Schools are among Wisconsin's most established Catholic School systems, having offered a complete high school education since the early 1880s. During the past two years, the National Council on Catholic Education has recognized McDonell Central Catholic High School as one of the

nation's top 50 Catholic High Schools for promoting the academic, civic, and spiritual growth of its students. The schools are accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. The BTOP project will strengthen our schools in all of the three main foci of our strategic plan: Educational Excellence, Catholic Charism, and School Vitality.

Our role as a partner in this project includes the following:

- We will work with CINC to plan, develop, and execute the proposed project and will manage our schools' fiber-enabled network to benefit students, teachers, and support staff.
- We will contribute financially to the cost share in the amount of $13,000.

As a result of this project grant, CACS will attain substantially upgraded broadband connectivity for students and teachers. This effort will allow for cost savings through local network management by CINC, our Community Area Network. Local network management allows community stakeholders to collaboratively benefit and improve network performance and capacity according to demand. This collaboration also provides for the management of our network for continued growth, long-term sustainability, and 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 CACS facilities and many other areas that currently have limited or no access. This project 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.
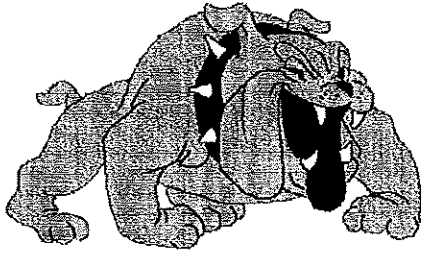
Sincerely,

Dr. Chad Ronnander, President
Chippewa Area Catholic Schools

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin –
Extension

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FAX (715) 924-1794 MIDDLE SCHOOL
FAX: (715) 924-2279 ELEMENTARY
WEBSITE: www.chetek.k12.wi.us

SUPERINTENDENT:
DR. AL BROWN

PRINCIPALS:

LARRY ZEMAN
HIGH SCHOOL

BRYAN YENTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

JILL KOENITZER
ELEMENTARY

BUSINESS MANAGER:
TAMMY LENBOM

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Chetek-Weyerhaeuser 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 the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District and communities. 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 Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District is located in Chetek, Wisconsin. The District is currently underserved by our broadband connectivity, with the growing use of Web 2.0 Apps and Virtual Education bandwidth has become a daily challenge. Our District serves roughly 1,000 students and 90 staff members who would greatly benefit with a faster broadband connection.

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 Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District.
- 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.

"Big enough for opportunities, small enough to care"
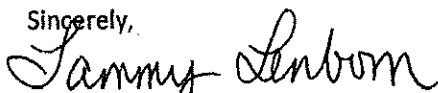
Our role as a partner organization includes:

- 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 Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District's fiber-enabled network to benefit students and teachers.
- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $12,000.

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,

Tammy Lenborn, Business Manager
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF

Fall Creek

FALL CREEK, WISCONSIN 54742

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

SUPERINTENDENT
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GAYLE HOLTE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
336 E. HOOVER AVENUE
(715) 877-3331
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BRIAN W. SCHULNER

6-12 PRINCIPAL
336 E. HOOVER AVENUE
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- 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.
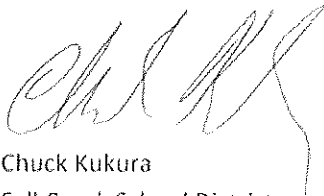
Our role as a partner in this project includes financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $10,000. We are also supporting this effort by:

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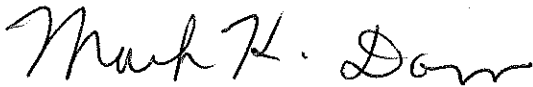
School districts around the country face overwhelming challenges in preparing students for a workplace and post-secondary education that is constantly changing. Because public school funding models are not designed to meet these challenge, the BTOP grant would help bridge the gap for our district and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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin –
Extension

**CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

140 Elm Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

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kowalssj@chipfalls.k12.wi.us

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
For a Changing Tomorrow

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 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 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.

- Allow us 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.

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 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. An example includes adult literacy programs.
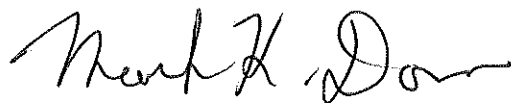
School districts around the country face an overwhelming challenge of preparing students for a workplace and post-secondary education that is constantly changing. School funding models are not designed to meet these challenges; the BTOP grant would help bridge the gap for our district and several other 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

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

Chippewa Valley
REGIONAL AIRPORT

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 am writing to you 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 Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties.

The Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC) is overseeing the BTOP pilot project in the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (CVRA) is associated with both Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. Both counties are a members 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. 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 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.

The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport is partnering on this important endeavor because the proposed project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to provide new and substantially upgraded broadband connectivity to critical transportation facilities including the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport.

3800 Starr Avenue . Eau Claire, WI 54703 . 715-839-6241 . cvra@clearwire.net
www.chippewavalleyairport.com

In addition, the broadband fiber project will provide new and substantially upgraded broadband connectivity to several educational, public parks and public works facilities and non-profit organizations, including:

- Altoona High School
- Augusta High School
- City of Altoona
- City of Augusta
- Fall Creek High School
- Expo Center (Eau Claire)
- Beaver Creek Reserve and Wildlands School (Fall Creek)
- Highway Department (Altoona)
- Highway Department (Augusta)
- Highway Department (Osseo)
- County Parks (Augusta, Altoona, Fall Creek, Eau Claire)
- UW-Extension, Eau Claire County (Altoona)

This 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 to improve educational, economic development, transportation and public safety services in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. Specifically, the proposed projects will:

- Improve transportation services and economic development by providing connectivity to the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport

As a key partner, the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport will support this funded project with a cash match of $10,000, subject to funding through future appropriations in 2011 and 2012 towards a regional project, estimated at more than $12,000,000.

As a result of these grants, the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport will attain improved broadband access and gain connectivity with key county partners. This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

Because of these innovative and highly positive benefits to the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, 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,

Charity Speich, C.M.
Airport Manager

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

![indianhead logo] **indianhead**

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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

February 23, 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

Dear NTIA Grant Reviewers and Mr. Strickling,

I am writing to state the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic's 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 western Wisconsin's Chippewa Valley.

The Free Clinic is partnering on this important endeavor because

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure that will provide us with new and substantially upgraded connectivity, allowing the Free Clinic to share electronic medical records with other healthcare organizations and even have the option of deploying telemedicine applications to bring physicians and specialists to our clinic via high speed video and audio connections.

- This 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 services within our community that serve at-risk populations such as the medically uninsured below the federal poverty line.

- For our community, this proposed project will improve services in healthcare for those most in need and also facilitate communication and sharing of medical records between healthcare providers.

Our role as a key partner includes:

- We will be contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project by providing space for two public computer terminals for Free Clinic patient and family member use (for education, obtaining and printing medical information, and communication). Use of these terminals will be restricted to health-related topics.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
FREE CLINIC

421 GRAHAM AVENUE | P.O. BOX 231 | EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702
PHONE 715.839.8477 | FAX 715.839.8521

- We will launch the project with used computers donated for the project by Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire.

- Free Clinic staff will be manage and maintain the computers, which will be available for patient use.
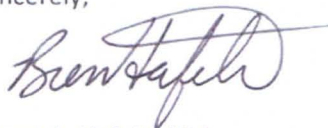
Without this funding, the Free Clinic will have no high speed internet connectivity to other hospitals and clinics to share electronic health records, diagnostic results and real-time telemedicine physician consults.

High speed broadband connectivity is a significant need for the Free Clinic:

- This effort will enhance life-saving treatment and the health and wellness of uninsured residents in the Chippewa Valley and surrounding rural areas through the high speed exchange of critical medical information.
- Utilize a new electronic medical record system (launched in 2010) with high speed connectivity to other healthcare providers to better serve patients.

- Provide patients (most without access to internet at home) with greater access to educational materials and communication.

- Connectivity to the high speed network will allow for continued growth and long-term sustainability with resulting cost-effectiveness. For example, as a 501(c)(3), this grant saves the cost of paying for low speed connectivity and increases the Free Clinic's fundraising capabilities to communicate with Free Clinic donors and grant makers.

- This effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services.

- High speed connectivity will also provide educational opportunities for our Free Clinic staff by opening up the possibility of participating in interactive high definition teleconferences such as with the Wisconsin Representative to the National Association of Free Clinic and other support and educational organizations.

Because of these innovative benefits to our patients, we 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,

Brent A. Hafele, M.A.
Executive Director

Jenny Regalia, RPH
Clinic Manager

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW - Extension

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
FREE CLINIC

421 GRAHAM AVENUE | P.O. BOX 231 | EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702
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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 DC 20230

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 communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve their regions.

As one of the anchor institutions in Platteville, University of Wisconsin-Platteville believes strongly in community supported networking. Over the years the University has sought to help other public institutions in our small southwest Wisconsin community gain access to the Internet. When UW-Extension proposed that Platteville be one of the five communities that partner in a comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption grant, we were delighted.

We believe that community owned and operated networks will guarantee each public anchor institution the network bandwidth it needs commensurate with its mission, whether that is ten megabits or 100 megabits. We view access to a broadband, robust and scalable network as a public good in the same way as our roads and highways are public goods. By moving network access for our public institutions from a private service to a public good, we will promote community collaboration, improved public health, better access to education and information, more efficient management of public resources, and improved emergency services.

We also believe that community owned networks will bring private sector network providers into the community to supply last mile services to businesses and households. A key component of University of Wisconsin-Extension's grant is to partner with a fiber provider to bring very high capacity low-cost bandwidth to Platteville from Madison. This partnership will not only reduce the community area network's costs, but promote competition for providers to better serve business, industry and residential customer s in our city as well as under-provisioned towns and rural areas on the new fiber paths to Platteville.

The sustainable broadband adoption grant will ensure that our community network continues to grow and include additional smaller communities in the largely rural area in southwest Wisconsin. We are particularly interested in bringing increasing numbers of small health clinics and outlying medical facilities onto our community network.

At University of Wisconsin-Platteville, we believe community area networks are the most logical and efficient way to bring broadband networking into small and rural communities where service providers see little profit for the investment they must make. Like the rural electric cooperatives of seventy years ago—which Wisconsin pioneered—we believe the CANs will serve as network cooperatives to do the same service for broadband.

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits these University of Wisconsin-Extension grants will bring to southwestern Wisconsin and to the city of Platteville, **the University of Wisconsin-Platteville pledges $100,000 as a cash match** to fund the *Building Community Capacity through Broadband* grant applications.

Sincerely,

Duane Merlin Ford, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice-Chancellor (Interim)
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
UW-Extension

Pioneering the Good Life

PLATTEVILLE
W I S C O N S I N

Home of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville

March 10, 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 DC 20230

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 application, for comprehensive community infrastructure. This application addresses a critical need for our community through a project that will provide us with the impetus and support we greatly need to build community capacity in Platteville, Wisconsin.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because

- The proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and will offer new services to our city institutions. It will also be a substantial upgrade to existing services for our other community partners.
- The proposed project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and incorporate a partnership among government and non-profit entities, improving services within our community.
- The proposed project will improve services in one or all of the following service areas; public safety, healthcare, and economic development.
- With these additions to our community, our citizens will have the opportunity to "live rural but work global."

Our role as a key partner includes:

- We will be contributing to the planning, development and execution of the proposed project by offering city engineering services and assisting with easements and right of way access.
- We will be financially contributing to the cost share in the amount of $100,000.

BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:

- As a result of this grant, the city will attain connection to all its facilities. In 2007 a bid to connect the city facilities was up to $350,000. It was not financially prudent to move forward with the project at that time and would not have been possible without this funding opportunity.

P.O. Box 780 • 75 North Bonson Street • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
Telephone (608) 348-9741 • Fax (608) 348-7812 • www.platteville.org

- Using this new fiber network between city facilities will enable future deployment of applications that require high bandwidth, special security measures, high reliability, or dedicated connections that would not be possible otherwise. Some of these applications could be public safety initiatives that would not otherwise be possible or would be substantially more expensive.

- Construction activities resulting from the installation of this infrastructure will introduce some revenue to local businesses, such as restaurants and lodging. It will also provide revenue to the contractors as well as potentially fund new jobs or retain existing jobs during the two year construction period.

- Having this fiber will allow city departments and reports to be accessed, updated and shared with other employees at substantially higher speeds, increasing employee productivity and efficiency.

- The city and others may realize cost savings and efficiency in deploying new systems across the network to all of their facilities. One such system that the city is looking at is a VoIP to upgrade or replace existing phone systems and may allow cost savings in the amount of lines needed.

- 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 effort will promote community collaboration and efficiency through cost and resource sharing, redundant infrastructure, as well as integrated, innovative and accessible services. This collaboration will lead to sustainability by increasing the number of institutions accessing the network and participating in the maintenance of the infrastructure.

- This network will provide a redundant architecture so that road construction changes or accidental damage will not interrupt service and will allow for a managed repair to take place rather than a service outage for critical services which these entities have become dependant on without which would require an emergency response and potentially high emergency repair costs. Without this grant, a redundant infrastructure would be beyond the financial capabilities of individual entities. The opportunity to share infrastructure amongst entities in this grant will allow for redundancy to be achieved at a much lower cost.

- Economic issues are restraining the entities from investing in such an infrastructure. Current economic conditions have forced the state, university, and the city to implement staff furloughs to resolve budgetary issues. Even the required matching funds are hard to obtain in this economic environment and some sacrifices will have to be made to do so. We realize that this investment and effort with help the economy now and in the future and eventually realize both direct and indirect cost savings.

- This effort will help shape realistic models of broadband deployment for a community that is small in size and will be able to assist other communities through the creation of "Best Practices."

Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits that can be derived from this effort, action was taken at the March 9, 2010 Common Council meeting to strongly support the project described and urge your positive consideration and funding of University of Wisconsin – Extension's grant applications.

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Daus
City of Platteville Common Council President

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

March 22, 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 DC 20230

Dear Mr. Strickling and NTIA Reviewers,

On behalf of the WiscNet Board of Directors and our 450 community anchor institution
members, this is to state our commitment to the University of Wisconsin – Extension's Building
Community Capacity through Broadband ("BCCB") application for BTOP-funded
comprehensive community infrastructure. Since the application's inception, we have worked
closely with our key statewide partners to foster this innovative multi-community
collaboration; we will continue to do so.

WiscNet – Wisconsin's Research, Education, and Public Service Network - is a 20-year-old
statewide community with members drawn from Wisconsin's higher education and research
communities, community colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, healthcare institutions, and public
sector agencies. Legally structured as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit association, we are governed by
an elected 11-member board of directors. We are – and we serve – Wisconsin's community
anchor institutions. In these 20 years of serving anchor institutions, we have experienced at first
hand the benefits of shared public/private fiber network initiatives. The opportunities, though
limited to-date, have opened new and creative ways for our members to serve their constituents
within their region. Due to lack of funding and infrastructure, we unfortunately are limited in
how far and to which institutions we can extend these powerful assets.

WiscNet has a continuous history of success at deploying advanced broadband services. Our
founding institutions propagated the Internet throughout Wisconsin and demonstrated the
value to our communities (and to for-profit providers) that widespread Internet access can
provide. With our BTOP partners – both non-profit and for-profit – we propose to build on this
track-record by deploying new fiber-based broadband services governed through accountable
and sustainable Community Area Networks ("CANs").

That is why this grant is so critical: we propose to extend the CANs beyond what we are
capable of today by using UW-Extension's presence in every Wisconsin county to scale
statewide, to reach more community anchor institutions and to expand the demand for
broadband services into the private sector. Anchor institutions are only as strong as their local
economies and we intend our efforts to spur local economic development.

WiscNet is committed to provide ongoing resources to carry out the proposed project:

Our <u>Executive Director</u> will participate in the oversight committee's activities to ensure responsible execution of the grant requirements and maintain our partnership's consistency in dealing with community anchor institutions.

Our 2 statewide <u>Educational Technology Liaison</u> staff members will allocate up to 20% of their time to teach and consult in our pilot communities on how to develop Community Area Networks that meet the needs and goals of their communities.

We will organize and host 8 to 10 <u>regional meetings</u> per project-year to share statewide our ongoing assessment of the development of CANs in our pilot communities.

We will provide a <u>cash match</u> of <u>$1,325,000</u> to fund Middle Mile broadband infrastructure construction among the pilot CANs. We also will provide the <u>network engineering and operational support</u> necessary to deliver broadband services over this new infrastructure to our pilot CANs.

We will donate pre-application in-kind expenses totaling $74,886 accumulated from environmental consulting and other qualifying grant develop staff time.

WiscNet will provide the following BTOP-funded staffing resources to the project:

<u>Technology Project Manager:</u> We will dedicate a 100%-time Wide Area Network Strategist to coordinate the implementation of the fiber, equipment, and working with communities on issues as they arise. This position will also oversee and coordinate the work of the other resources provided by WiscNet, as outlined below.

<u>Long-Haul Fiber Manager:</u> We will dedicate a 50%-time WAN Strategist to work with our private partner, as well as the communities, on the implementation of the fiber infrastructure between communities.

<u>Community Area Network Fiber Manager:</u> We will dedicate a 50%-time Fiber Manager to work with the communities in mapping and managing data on their fiber paths.

<u>Fiscal Manager:</u> We will dedicate a 25%-time Budget and Policy Analyst to manage the fiber contracts, work with the fiber contractors and vendors on fiscal issues pertaining to the installation of the infrastructure, and work with UW-Extension financial staff to provide the necessary information and documentation for reporting purposes.

The new CAN infrastructure that we can develop with these grant dollars will advance the broadband network needs of the public and private sectors, provide needed economic stimulus and demonstrate a model for comprehensive community broadband deployment that many communities across the United States can replicate. We look forward to the challenge.

Sincerely,

Ross Wilson
Chairman, WiscNet Board of Directors

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension

David J. Lois
Executive Director, WiscNet

UNIVERSITY *of* WISCONSIN

Superior

March 3, 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 DC 20230

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 communities across Wisconsin and in particular for the five communities that are partnering on this important endeavor. These grants will greatly assist each in building community capacity to serve our regions.

As one of the anchor institutions in Superior, University of Wisconsin-Superior is strongly committed to community-supported networking.   When UW-Extension proposed that Superior participate as one of the five communities partnering in a comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption grant, we were very pleased to accept.

In Superior we have had a great deal of difficulty acquiring the bandwidth necessary to carry out our educational mission. The rest of the community has been even more disadvantaged than the University which has the support of the University of Wisconsin System. In addition to the economic challenges caused by decades of decline in industry and the economic catastrophe of the last few years, Superior is the most geographically distant community from the population centers of the state, and thus from the greatest broadband opportunities.

We believe that community owned and operated networks are the best guarantee for communities such as ours so that each public anchor institution will have access to the network bandwidth it needs commensurate with its mission no matter what that bandwidth might be. We view access to a broadband, robust and scalable network as a public good in the same way as our roads and highways are public goods. By moving network access for our public institutions from a private service to a public good, we will promote community collaboration, improved public health, better access to education and information, more efficient management of public resources, and improved emergency services.

We also believe that community owned networks will bring private sector network providers into an under-served community to supply last mile services to businesses and households. A key component
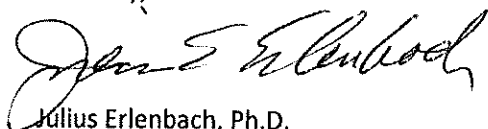
of University of Wisconsin-Extension's grant is to partner with a fiber provider to bring very high capacity low-cost bandwidth to Superior from Eau Claire, the closest point to the Minneapolis to Chicago broadband backbone. This partnership will not only reduce the community area network's costs, but promote competition for providers to better serve business, industry and residential customer s in our city as well as under-provisioned towns and rural areas on the new fiber paths to Superior.

The sustainable broadband adoption grant will ensure that our community network continues to grow and include additional smaller communities in the largely rural area in northwest Wisconsin. We are particularly interested in bringing increasing numbers of public institutions and their outlying facilities onto our community network.

At University of Wisconsin-Superior, we believe community area networks are the most logical and efficient way to bring broadband networking into small and rural communities where service providers see little profit for the investment they must make. Like the rural electric cooperatives of seventy years ago—which Wisconsin pioneered—we believe the CANs will serve as network cooperatives to do the same service for broadband.
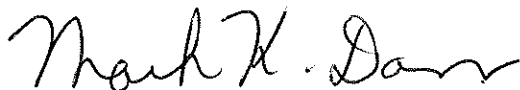
Because of the innovative and highly positive benefits these University of Wisconsin-Extension grants will bring to northwestern Wisconsin and to the city of Superior, **the University of Wisconsin-Superior pledges $40,000 as a cash match ($20,000 per year for two years) to fund the *Building Community Capacity through Broadband*** grant applications.

Sincerely,

Julius Erlenbach, Ph.D.
Chancellor

JEE/MS/jj

Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin •
Extension

School District of Platteville

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February 22, 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 DC 20230

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 Platteville, Wisconsin.

We are partnering on this important endeavor because:

- Education is the cornerstone of our community and the proposed projects will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure that substantially upgrades service to community anchor institutions including the public and private schools that serve 1,600 PK-12 students, of whom 8% are minority, 15% special needs and 35% economically disadvantaged.

- Increased connectivity would serve our community in a variety of ways from integrating city and emergency response facilities to providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs thru construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth.

- It could give our entrepreneurs and businesses the opportunity to grow and compete in the global marketplace and provide an incentive for businesses to locate in Platteville that could take advantage of high speed community networking and local educational and business resources in addition to the relatively low costs of the area.

- If successful, Platteville could provide a model for other relatively rural communities and how the strengths of each community can be brought out to foster economic growth, education, and prosperity.

Our role as a key partner includes contributing:

- To the planning, development and execution of the proposed project by helping write the grant.

- To the management and operation of the project by providing technical assistance on the project.

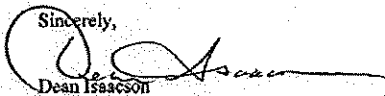- Our existing fiber network for use by other partners.

- The in kind value of $119,070 from our fiber network to the PCAN project.
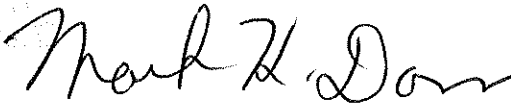
BENEFITS & OUTCOMES:

- As a result of these grants, we will have additional fiber capacity from additional terminations of our existing fiber and the new fiber that will be installed.

- The proposed network will provide redundant fiber paths to our buildings. This will help insure up time during fiber cuts or road construction.

- This effort will allow for cost savings through shared costs in maintaining the current fiber network.

- 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 and provide new capabilities to communicate and transport data among anchor institutions and provide a means for offsite data backups.

- 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 of providing redundancy, high speed, and sustainable low cost networking to educational, library, and community facilities with the goals of advancing capabilities in education, healthcare/emergency response, local governance/public works, and creating local jobs thru construction activities and positioning the community for economic growth 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 grant applications.

Sincerely,

Dean Isaacson
District Administrator
School District of Platteville

**Mark K. Dorn
Controller
University of Wisconsin -
Extension**

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 17, 2010

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

I am writing in support of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's "Building Community Capacity through Broadband" and BTOF applications for comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband.

The State of Wisconsin is at an economic crossroads. Many areas of the state are rural, and many of these areas have lagged in deployment of advanced technology. This technology brings the promise of enhanced education, more accessible medical advice and treatment, and community economic development. Broadband, as the new infrastructure for commerce, will help level the playing field and help rural communities overcome geographic isolation to compete with urban and global competitors.

This specific proposal will link communications technology to five pilot regions, essentially all serving rural communities and constituencies. Each community faces significant economic development, civic infrastructure, educational or health delivery challenges. Each pilot area offers strong public-private partnerships and serves a community predominately under economic stress. The target pilot project areas serve a combined population of more than 420,000 citizens, many of whom are diverse: Hmong, Native American and Hispanic.
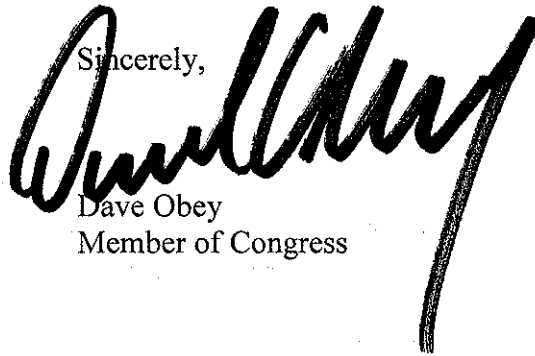
It is my understanding that these funds will be used in the following areas of the district I represent:

- Wausau – Funds will be used for computer training and a lab in conjunction with the Wausau Central Library; internet kiosks throughout the community; and community outreach, especially to the Hmong, senior citizens, the unemployed and farmers;

- Chippewa Valley: Funds will be used to strengthen a strong network that already exists and, especially, to advance community efforts in health care, education, research and effective government operations. Several outcomes are anticipated including enhanced lifesaving treatment, health and wellness of residents in rural areas through telemedicine and the high-speed exchange of critical life-saving medical information;

- Superior – Funds will be used to expand broadband access to connect Superior municipal facilities including the library, fire house, wastewater treatment plant, and landfill. It will allow the highway and forestry departments to be equipped with GIS programs and remote access for emergency management and law enforcement.

I urge full and fair consideration, on the merits, of the University of Wisconsin-Extension's "Building Community Capacity through Broadband" grant applications. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Dave Obey
Member of Congress