

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

General Information

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	2. Award Identification Number 01-42-B10580	3. DUNS Number 066470972
4. Recipient Organization Auburn University 107 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849		
5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY) 12-31-2011	6. Is this the last Annual Report of the Award Period? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official Don-Terry Veal	7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)	
	7d. Email Address vealdon@auburn.edu	
7b. Signature of Certifying Official Submitted Electronically	7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY): 02-24-2012	

PROJECT INDICATORS

1. Are you establishing new Public Computer Centers (PCCs) or improving existing PCCs?

New Improved Both

2. How many PCCs were established or improved, and what type of institution(s) were they associated with? Please provide actual total numbers to date. Figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent calendar year. Recipients should only count the PCCs that were fully established or in which improvements have been fully completed in that year (that is, partial improvements should not be counted).

Institutions	Established	Improved	Total
Schools (K-12)	0	38	38
Libraries	1	95	96
Community Colleges	0	0	0
Universities / Colleges	0	0	0
Medical / Health care Facilities	0	0	0
Public Safety Entities	0	0	0
Job-Training and/or Economic Development Institution	0	0	0
Other Community Support-Governmental (please specify):	0	0	0
Other Community Support-Non-Governmental (please specify):	0	0	0

3. Please complete the following chart for each PCC established or improved using BTOP funds. Please provide actual total numbers to date.

3.a. New PCCs

New PCC Address	Number of Workstations Available to the Public	Total Hours of Operation per 120-hour Business Week	Total Hours of Operation per 48-hour Weekend	Speed of Broadband Access to Facility (Mbps)	Average Number of Users per Week
0	0	0	0	0	0

3.b. Improved PCCs

New PCC Address	Number of Workstations Available to the Public	Total Hours of Operation per 120-hour Business Week	Total Hours of Operation per 48-hour Weekend	Speed of Broadband Access to Facility (Mbps)	Average Number of Users per Week
Prior to Improvement					
0	0	0	0	0	0

After Improvement

0	0	0	0	0	0
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4.a. Please check the primary uses of the PCCs funded by this award. (Check all that apply.)

Open Lab Time Other Training

4.b. If "other," please specify the primary use of the PCCs:

5. Please list all of the PCC broadband equipment and/or supplies you have purchased during the past year using BTOP grant funds or other (matching) funds, including any customer premises equipment or end-user devices. If additional space is needed, please attach a list of equipment and/or supplies. Please also describe how the equipment and supplies have been deployed (600 words or less).

Manufacturer	Items	Unit Cost per Item	Number of Units	Narrative description of how the equipment and supplies were deployed
PolyCom	6400LF2 EdgeMarc VBP	26,056	1	Used to host teleconferencing sessions at various PCC locations and is installed at the Alabama Public Library Service.
PolyCom	RSS 4000	12,500	1	Used to host teleconferencing sessions at various PCC locations and is Installed at the Alabama Public Library Service.
PolyCom	CMA 5000 2201-77651-000 (Bridge)	32,500	1	Used to host teleconferencing sessions at various PCC locations and is Installed at the Alabama Public Library Service.
PolyCom	RMX 2000 VRMX2710HDR	36,183	1	Used to host teleconferencing sessions at various PCC locations and is Installed at the Alabama Public Library Service.
Totals:		107,239	4	

Add Equipment

Remove Equipment

6. For PCC access and training provided with BTOP grant funds, please provide the information below. Figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent calendar year.

Types of Access or Training	Number of People Targeted	Number of People Participating	Total Hours of Training Offered
Open Lab Access	1,820,000	1,656,486	0
Multimedia	0	0	0
Office skills	0	1,676	28,492
ESL	0	0	0
GED	0	0	0
College Preparatory Training	0	220	1,100
Basic Internet and Computer Use	345	3,369	15,792
Certified Training Programs	0	1,197	4,788
Other (please specify): Job Skills	0	562	2,810
Total	1,820,345	1,663,510	52,982

7. Please describe how your Public Computer Center(s) promotes economic recovery in your area, such as through providing job training, access to job searches, online course offerings, certifications and the like (600 words or less).

Even before this project people would go to the libraries to fill out job applications, write resumes and check their e-mail. Since the libraries received the new BTOP computers, they are now reporting that patrons are able to write better resumes, fill out job applications without the computers crashing, hold distance interviews with employers, and take online job training classes that wouldn't work on the libraries old computers. Our PCCs are being used by local companies and agencies to hold employee training, and by state agencies to hold job-counseling sessions. In many cases the library is the closest thing to an unemployment agency in the area.

Patrons preparing or filing tax returns previously used libraries heavily during tax season. The BTOP libraries are reporting that this process is going much smoother this season with computers that are easier to use and don't crash. The new BTOP computers have also made it possible for adults continuing (or starting) their college education and to take part in the BlackBoard systems that many schools and companies use for their online classes and training. One library reported that "a grandmother was handed the name of a website and told she could watch her granddaughter's graduation ceremony in Germany. She came to us not knowing what to do with the information. We set her up on a computer and she was able to view the whole thing, and to print out an invitation and a program." Another library told us that "a local home schooled group of students have met here to work on a yearbook they are compiling together as a group."

Most importantly, we are seeing a steady stream of patrons getting jobs. Each month, libraries tell us that another patron or two got a job the past month, because they were able to more easily navigate the job application process, apply for unemployment benefits, take online classes, take proctored tests, and practice their computer and social networking skills. Several libraries have told us that patrons who had previously been passed over for advancement, due to an inability to take necessary online training courses, were able to take those classes on the new computers and get those advancements. In particular, the 60 new wireless networks we've setup allow rural community residents to bring in laptops or other devices and access the internet. Many libraries have become wireless "hotspots" for

their small towns where residents can go to use free wireless internet services that transmits both inside and outside each location 24-hours a day.

Schools participating in the BTOP project have been able to start parent involvement programs, or set aside computer time for parents to come into the new labs and learn job skills or how to use the Internet. With the BTOP computers, schools have been able to expand their offering of classes in financial literacy, accounting, computer applications and workforce essentials. They have also been able to hold larger test preparation classes, with less time spent on solving computer problems and more time for teaching.

8. To the extent that you have made any subcontracts or sub grants, please provide the number of subcontracts or sub grants that have been made to socially and economically disadvantaged small business (SDB) concerns as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 647, as modified by NTIA's adoption of an alternative small business size standard for use in BTOP. Please also provide the names of these SDB entities (150 words or less).

No subcontracts or sub grants have been made to socially and economically disadvantaged small business (SDB) concerns as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 647, as modified by NTIA's adoption of an alternative small business size standard for use in BTOP.

9. Please describe any best practices / lessons learned that can be shared with other similar BTOP projects (900 words or less).

Another major accomplishment of project is that many PCCs were able to leverage the new equipment to get approval from administrators or to write grants to invest in upgraded internet connections with faster broadband speeds. Better equipment and faster speeds has lead to increase in public use as the word spreads in local communities about the new computers, new wireless networks and faster internet connections.

With the upgraded capacity in the libraries, the staff are collaborating with local schools to implement new or expand educational programs, which has resulted in a major jump in the number of students (of all grade levels) going to the libraries. The new, more, and faster internet workstations have allowed for shorter wait times, more productivity and greater interest in outside organizations taking advantage of library services.