

# **State and Local Government**

Kenneth Martin  
City Clerk

Vicki Martin  
Treasurer

City Engineer

Blinn Bates  
Attorney

Fred Finchum, Mayor

City of Atlanta, Illinois

PO BOX 385 107 NE First Street

Atlanta, Illinois 61723

Phone 217-648-2351 Fax 217-648-2070

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications  
And Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

This letter is in support of the Central Illinois Broadband Networks loan application for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). Our community commends the efforts of Congress, and NTIA for this opportunity to provide funding to qualified companies like CIRB in order to bring essential broadband services and opportunities to Rural America.

The Rural Electrification Program laid the foundation for the creation of jobs and services in Rural America and has been extremely successful. The BTOP program is a natural extension of that initiative that will bring technology advances to all of America with no community left behind. After reviewing CIRB plan for our community as well as the other rural communities of central and southern Illinois, I feel strongly that the full measure of the spirit of Broadband will be met.

In the remote rural areas America, such as Atlanta, we appreciate these programs and the endeavors of CIRB to keep pace with major urban cities both here and abroad. We look forward to working with CIRB to bring broadband technology to ours and other rural communities of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Fred Finchum, Mayor  
City of Atlanta

# VILLAGE OF GRIDLEY

117 E. Third Street  
P.O. Box 168  
Gridley, Illinois 61744  
Phone 309 747-2000  
Fax 309 747-3453

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

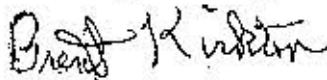
Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) project and proposal.

The Village of Gridley is a small town located in Central Illinois. The CIRBN would be of great value to our small community if it were successful. It would enable the Village of Gridley residents and businesses the opportunity to have a more reasonable and a reliable broadband option that they do not have at the present. Our residents and businesses could therefore stay competitive using our local communications company. Our residents and businesses would have the high quality bandwidth that would meet their demand for business, education and entertainment Internet needs. This would give our schools an interconnection to other schools and our EMT service a necessary high speed option to near by hospitals. The passing of the project would also help in attracting new businesses to our area.

We are very excited about the possibilities and again are in definite support of the CIRBN project.

Sincerely,



Brent Kirkton  
Village President  
Gridley, Illinois

Village of Arrowsmith  
P.O. Box 44  
Arrowsmith IL 61722

Phone: (309) 727-1150

January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

Scott Geneng  
Director of Telecommunications and Networking  
Illinois State University  
105 Williams Hall Annex  
Normal, IL 61790

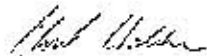
Scott,

I am writing this letter of support for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network grant effort on behalf of the Village of Arrowsmith. Arrowsmith is a small community located in the eastern half of McLean County and has had a difficult time attracting any interest from service providers for high speed or broadband internet services. Because of this our local government, emergency services and businesses within the village are unable to realize the benefits of technology and the efficiencies that high speed internet access provides.

We believe that access to the type of network that is being planned is critical to foster economic growth, educational opportunities and will allow smaller local governments to be able to utilize and access the same types of technologies that are afforded larger communities. We are hopeful that the CIRBN effort is successful in their request for grant approval which would provide funding for this effort.

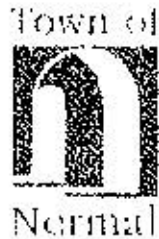
Thank You

Chad Walden



Village of Arrowsmith President





Office of the Mayor

February 2, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support from the Town of Normal, Illinois for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) Initiative. The Town of Normal plans to support the CIRBN initiative by providing physical infrastructure and facilities wherever feasible. Existing, Town owned and/or maintained conduit and core node location facilities will be available for consideration. In addition, where new conduit and fiber pathways need to be installed, the Town of Normal will assist, within the scope of its power, with right of way approval.

The Town of Normal sees the CIRBN initiative as a project with potential to bring far reaching benefits, some as yet undiscovered, to Bloomington/Normal and the outlying communities within McLean County. The possibility of connecting some of the surrounding communities to a high speed, shared access network brings with it many possibilities for resource connectivity, utilization, and sharing. Such connectivity will also bring economic development benefits to the region for years to come.

Benefits specific to the Town of Normal include improved connectivity between existing locations, new disaster recovery options, new options for public safety connectivity, increased capability to share resources with other agencies and organizations within the community, increased bandwidth, and lowering the cost for internet connectivity by participating in a pooled environment.

Thank you for considering the Town of Normal within the scope of the CIRBN initiative. The Town of Normal sees itself as a strong partner with major involvement in the CIRBN initiative and looks forward to the benefits it will bring to all citizens in the region.

Sincerely,

Chris Koos  
Mayor

*"Committed to Service Excellence"*

1881 East Phoenix Avenue • Post Office Box 569 • Normal, Illinois 61761-0569  
Telephone: (815) 454-2344 • Fax: (815) 454-9656 • TDD: (815) 454-9639  
[www.normal.org](http://www.normal.org)

# SANGAMON COUNTY

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT



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200 S. Ninth, Room 312 • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • Tel (217) 535-3170 • Fax (217) 535-3230

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March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Sangamon County currently utilize the ICN network to provide internet services to it's 700 employees who are in turn serving the citizens of Sangamon County and other governmental agencies. Sangamon County is located in the heartland of the nation –approximately 200 miles southwest of Chicago, 100 miles northeast of St. Louis and 193 miles west of Indianapolis. As a governmental body, we are trying to provide e-government services to our citizens and constituents as a more efficient and economical way of doing business.

Our customers include property tax payers, business owners, voters, clients of the court system, citizens receiving health care services, citizens receiving assistance with utilities and home improvements, couples getting married, families dealing with the birth of child or the death of a loved one, township agencies, city & village agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies.

We were utilizing T-1 lines from AT&T Global Services which proved to very costly and at times unreliable. The City of Springfield has a fiber network within the city limits that we now utilize in conjunction with the bandwidth being provided by the Illinois Century Network. This has greatly reduce the cost and also provided a higher efficient service. Our current situation is high volume, not enough capacity and the need to make more services available via the internet. With the current budget situation, more departments would like to take advantage of education webcast but we are limited.

There are many benefits that Sangamon County would receive if we could have access to broadband. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-535-3170

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Rovey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and a trailing flourish.

Wayne L. Rovey  
Director



# QUINCY/ADAMS COUNTY 9-1-1

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Steve Rowlands  
Director

222 N. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Quincy, Illinois 62305

(217) 228-4572  
Fax: 222-9361

March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

The Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 System strongly supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 is a consolidated Enhanced 9-1-1 dispatch center serving a population of 68,000 and all public safety jurisdictions in Adams County. The center provides emergency and non-emergency call-handling and communication response to public requests for law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services.

Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 relies heavily on the current Illinois Century Network for critical data connectivity with state and local governments as well as local public safety agencies. Greater bandwidth is critical not only for current operations, but necessary to take advantage of new and innovative technologies that will be necessary for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) and other telephone, radio, and computer-aided dispatch systems that utilize a high-speed broadband infrastructure.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to give me call at (217) 228-4572.

Sincerely,

Steve Rowlands  
Director, Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1



McLEAN COUNTY BOARD  
 (309) 888-5110 FAX (309) 888-5111  
 115 E. Washington P.O. Box 2400  
 Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2400

Matt Sorensen  
 Chairman

February 8, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
 Department of Commerce  
 Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support from the County of McLean, Illinois for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) initiative. The County of McLean plans to support the CIRBN initiative by providing physical infrastructure and facilities wherever feasible. Existing County owned and/or maintained conduit and core node locations will be available for consideration. In addition, where new conduit and fiber pathways need to be installed, the County of McLean will assist, within the scope of its power, with right of way approval.

The County of McLean sees the CIRBN initiative as a project with potential to bring far-reaching benefits, some as yet undiscovered, to constituents of this region. The possibility of connecting some of the surrounding communities to a high speed, shared access network brings with it many possibilities for resource connectivity, utilization and sharing. Such connectivity will also bring economic development benefits to the region for years to come.

Benefits specific to the County include new disaster recovery options, new options for public safety in connection with our integrated justice system, remote support of municipalities that cannot afford an information technology staff, providing the support of our health department resources in remote locations, increased bandwidth and lowering the cost for internet connectivity by participating in a pooled environment.

Thank you for considering the County of McLean within the scope of the CIRBN initiative. The County of McLean sees itself as a strong partner with major involvement in the CIRBN initiative and looks forward to the benefits it will bring to all citizens in the region.

Sincerely,  
  
 Matthew Sorensen  
 Chairman, the McLean County Board

District #1 Steve Hasebach Don J. Cavallini	District #3 Diane R. Bostic George O. Ward	District #5 William T. Giesley Sandra "Sonny" O'Connor	District #7 Relle Prokopenko John A. Buller	District #9 Cody Allen Eric Harlan
District #2 Matt Sorensen Jim Seelinger	District #4 Doree Woods Laura Walker	District #6 George J. Gordon John McElroy	District #8 Paul R. Segobiano Toni Reimer	District #10 Renee J. Owens Bob Nicholls



Madison County Government  
Employment and Training Department

David Stoecklin • Executive Director  
101 East Edwardsville Road • Suite 1302 • Wood River, IL 62095-1369  
Phone (618) 296-4445 • Fax (618) 656-6945

Alan J. Dunstan  
County Board Chairman  
Jill Franks  
Bond County Board Chairperson

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the State of Illinois Broadband Stimulus funds application submitted by Illinois Century Network. My organization, Madison County Employment & Training, has been associated with ICN for at least 10 years. We have always found their level of service to be excellent and expect that to continue and to improve with the benefit of the fiber project.

Our organization is a federally-funded local workforce investment area and we receive our funding at the local level through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities. We provide services to customers in Madison and Bond Counties that are economically disadvantaged, dislocated workers, youth,, etc. We have "Resource Rooms" in our offices that depend on reliable and fast bandwidth. We offer our customers access to the Internet to perform job search activities such as online applications, resume writing, etc. Some of our rural customers are dependent on our offices for Internet access as they are not either able to afford it in their homes or have access at all. Our staff also depends on reliable access to the Internet to perform their day-to-day activities which include accessing the State of Illinois' case management application (IWDS) to log our customers as they travel through our service delivery system. This application is responsible for tracking our services and is used to determine our funding levels for future years. More bandwidth can only improve the speed in which we are able to perform our duties and also serve our customers.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-296-4445 or by email at [dstoecklin@mcetd.org](mailto:dstoecklin@mcetd.org).

Sincerely,

David Stoecklin,  
Executive Director





# JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Promoting Health, Preventing Illness, Protecting our Environment, and Preparing for Emergencies*

March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our health department serves our rural community by using technology that other agencies in larger areas can use more efficiently due to greater bandwidth which is a benefit of a more developed infrastructure. Our technological future hinges on improvements that are made possible through advancement in our communications. Developing a greater data infrastructure in our area is vital to our advancement.

Having increased bandwidth would allow us to use tax dollars more efficiently, and serve the people in our community on a higher level. If ICN is able to offer a fiber network we will have the potential to remain competitive with internet based technologies. This would be a tremendous opportunity for the people of southern Illinois.

Sincerely,

Don Ford  
Network Administrator  
Jackson County Health Department







springfield  
illinois illinois  
state  
museum

502 S. Spring St.  
Springfield, IL 62706-5000  
Telephone (217) 782-7386  
Fax (217) 782-1254

March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

As the Director of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) system and a member of the Illinois Century Network (ICN) Policy Committee, I fully endorse the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Illinois State Museum has six public facilities in Illinois, five of which are connected to the Illinois Century Network. Our facilities are located in northern Illinois (the ISM Chicago Gallery and the ISM Lockport Gallery along the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor), central Illinois (the Illinois State Museum and ISM Research and Collections Center in Springfield and ISM Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown) and southern Illinois (the Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center at Rend Lake in Whittington). We serve about 600,000 individuals through physical visits to our facilities and outreach off site. Our Web Site provides educational resources to over 2.7 million individuals across the world each year. The ICN fiber project will increase our linkage with learners across the state by providing middle mile transport on the network and providing last mile transport to the local community. There are over 1,000 museums in Illinois, many of which are interested in connecting to the Illinois Century Network and would benefit from this project.

The Illinois State Museum serves large-scale research and collections databases and bandwidth intensive Web sites, such as the new Audio-Video Barn Web site (<http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us>) for the Museum's Oral History of Illinois Agriculture Project (funded by a National Leadership Grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services). The Web site serves over 300 hours of digital video and audio from over 130 oral-history interviews with Illinois farmers and is searchable by topic. Greater bandwidth will provide a better user experience of the audiovisual streams for intensive educational resources such as this one.

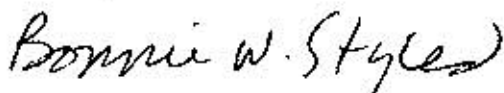


Our Lockport Gallery is the only facility that is not connected to the ICN and would benefit by accessing middle mile bandwidth. Currently, the cost of connecting to the closest ICN facility is more expensive than linking through a commercial ISP. Service from the local provider is slow and intermittent and does not allow us to serve our online educational modules in this facility. Consequently, our visitors, including thousands of school children and families, are denied access to these educational resources. The expansion of middle mile bandwidth would benefit numerous museums across the state and would allow them to share their resources with broader audiences.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will offer, the Illinois State Museum and other Illinois museums will be able to serve richer online Web modules, share data and other resources, serve digital images of their collections, and connect to more learners across the state.

If I can be of assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me at 217-782-7011, [director@museum.state.il.us](mailto:director@museum.state.il.us), or through snail mail at the address provided below.

Sincerely,



Bonnie W. Styles  
ICN Policy Committee Member  
Director, Illinois State Museum  
502 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-5000



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Jesse H. Ruiz  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

March 19, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is a consumer of ICN services and we are seated on the ICN Policy Committee. We strongly support the Illinois Century Network Broadband stimulus funds application. We host a web-based application for teacher certification that is used by over 175,000 Illinois teachers and administrators. ISBE hosts over 100 web-based systems from our Springfield data center and most are accessed through a secure web-based application called ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS). IWAS presently has over 42,000 active users. Our school districts customers are throughout Illinois from cities to rural areas. They would be better served by having the fastest available bandwidth to conduct electronic business with our agency and their other service providers.

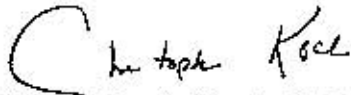
Higher bandwidth would also result in greater efficiency and productivity to the ISBE offices in Springfield and Chicago. Our primary data center is in Springfield. Our Chicago office and field-based employees all access applications hosted at our Springfield data center. Higher bandwidth would directly result in faster access. In addition, we have three (3) near-real-time replication streams from our Springfield data center to our Chicago data center for disaster recovery purposes. Presently, there is lag time in this replication due to limited bandwidth that could result in data loss if we ever experience an outage. This could adversely affect recoverability in a prolonged outage. Higher bandwidth would protect the integrity of our data.

The ICN has an impeccable quality of service and they are dedicated 100% to the institutions and constituents of Illinois. Most Illinois schools and districts utilize the ICN for broadband connectivity and we stand in full support of the ICN for this broadband stimulus funding.

ISBE feels that the ICN fiber network will position Illinois, state agencies and, most importantly, our customers, for the bandwidth demand we envision in the future, especially with the expansion of cloud computing. ISBE has been able to reduce travel expense by hosting webinars for training sessions. In the past nine months, we have had 100 live webinars with over 8,000 participants. We record each webinar and post links to the recordings with streaming video. This rich-content requires higher bandwidth.

If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact Scott Norton Division Administrator for Technology Support Division at 217-558-3649 or at [snorton@isbe.net](mailto:snorton@isbe.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

Illinois State Library  
Gwendolyn Brooks Building  
300 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-782-2994

March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application**

Dear Sir,

The Illinois State Library strongly supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Illinois State Library works with more than 4,000 libraries statewide in providing access to information for the residents of Illinois. The Illinois Century Network (ICN) has helped so much with information access. Libraries that connect to the ICN have robust and dependable Internet access for middle mile transport. In many instances, the ICN has also helped public libraries and academic institutions in communities cooperate with other community anchor institutions in cutting down the costs of last mile connections to the ICN point-of-presence.

Libraries face many budgetary challenges due to dwindling revenues. At the same time, library use is increasing rapidly as more users are using the library to look for jobs and expand their educational skills. In order to meet patron demand, libraries need greater bandwidth at a price they can afford. The ICN's efforts have been a tremendous boon to library service, and we need to ICN to continue to expand its middle mile transport in a cost-effective manner to meet our needs.

Many areas of Illinois are sparsely populated, and commercial telecommunications providers have been reluctant to expand services in areas where the revenue stream is limited. The State of Illinois, however, has a commitment to make Internet access possible in all areas so that libraries and other community anchor institutions can meet the information needs to the unemployed, the agricultural community and students of all ages.

As one of the organizations represented on the ICN's Policy Committee, the State Library works with other organizations in ways to meet our needs. With expanded broadband connectivity through the State of Illinois project, libraries, schools, universities and others will be able to meet the spiraling needs for broadband access. Library patrons will not be limited in accessing the online training and other services that they need.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed about the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding. I can be contacted at (217) 782-2994 or [acraig@ilsos.net](mailto:acraig@ilsos.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Craig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" and last name "Craig" clearly distinguishable.

Anne Craig  
Director  
Illinois State Library





**Guy H. Alongi**  
*Chair*

**Geoffrey S. Obrzut**  
*President/CEO*

*Proudly Serving*  
**The Illinois Community College System**

March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Assistant Secretary:

The Illinois Community College Board fully supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application.

The Illinois Community College System consists of 48 community colleges in 39 community college districts that provide access to postsecondary programs within easy reach of every resident of Illinois. Community colleges serve nearly one million Illinois residents each year in credit and noncredit courses and many more through their public service programs. The colleges provide the community with training and technical programs for employers and prepare students for transfer to other colleges or universities and for employment. Community colleges also provide adult, literacy, and continuing education and services.

An important aspects of accessibility to community colleges is the availability of online courses. Illinois community colleges are experiencing record enrollments this year, and online course delivery is a substantial source of that growth. Both traditional age and nontraditional student appreciate the availability of online courses as a convenient and cost-effective way to earn college credits, certificates and degrees. In addition, colleges are better serving their students through an interactive website that provides students with such services as financial aid, advising, registration, and career planning.

By increasing the availability of bandwidth to our colleges, we can serve a more diverse population of students, provide greater access to academic programs and support services, and increase course and program completions. We welcome the opportunity to support this grant application and expand the mutually beneficial partnership with the Illinois Century Network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Geoffrey S. Obrzut".

Geoffrey S. Obrzut  
President/CEO



## ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

431 EAST ADAMS STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1404

Pat Quinn  
**Governor**

March 17, 2010

Carrie J. Hightman  
Chicago  
**Chairwoman**

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**Members**  
Guy Alongi  
DuQuoin

Jay D. Bergman  
Joliet

RE: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network  
Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Frances G. Canoll  
Chicago

Dear Sir:

Heba Hamouda  
Chicago

The Illinois Board of Higher Education fully supports Central Management Services' broadband stimulus grant application.

Alice B. Hayes  
Chicago

Donald J. McNeil  
Chicago

The Board of Higher Education is responsible for planning and coordinating the state's system of higher education, which is comprised of 12 public universities, 48 community colleges, and 97 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities serving over 800,000 students in fall 2009.

John P. Minogue  
Chicago

Proshanta K. Nandi  
Springfield

Universities have become heavily dependent upon the availability of affordable and accessible bandwidth to carry on not just research functions but basic educational functions. Instructionally, whether it is web-based distance learning or video conferencing, universities have become dependent upon low cost bandwidth to reduce travel and leverage instructional resources and availability. Administratively, the flow of data and required reporting has reached such a level that many larger campuses now operate a separate administrative network to meet demand. As for research, the use of grid computing and the development of advanced computer modeling are entirely dependent upon the availability of affordable and accessible bandwidth. In short, higher education will require the exponential growth of available and affordable bandwidth to meet the needs of the future. This project promises to deliver this critical resource to our institutions of higher education.

Santos Rivera  
Chicago

Robert J. Ruiz  
Oak Lawn

Elmer L. Washington  
Park Forest

Addison E. Woodward, Jr.  
Palos Park

**Student Members**  
Dimitri Kametas  
Oak Lawn

William Obuchowski  
Oak Lawn

Again, we offer our full support in advancing the Central Management Services' application for broadband stimulus funding.

**Executive Director**  
Judy Erwin

Sincerely,

Judy Erwin  
Executive Director

Phone: (217) 782-2551 • Fax: (217) 782-8548 • TTY: (888) 261-2881 • [www.ibhe.org](http://www.ibhe.org)

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# GREENE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

310 Fifth St. • Carrollton, IL 62016 • (217) 942-6961 Fax: (217) 942-3904

Daniel Woodlock, D.D.S.  
BOARD OF HEALTH PRESIDENT

Ruth Ann Flowers, R.N., B.S.  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR



March 11, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

As a local community customer of the Illinois Century Network, we support their efforts to expand broadband connectivity. The Greene County Health Department provides a wide range of public health, environmental health, and home health services affecting the entire population of Greene County Illinois.

The use of broadband internet connectivity is critical to our agency's business and provision of services. We continuously send and receive email communications with our community partners and with state agencies, including Health Alerts and emergency communication with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Broadband connectivity is essential for transmittal of patient records and billing data for our home health services and for reporting communicable diseases and food-borne illness.

As a public agency, we have limited financial resources and find the cost of obtaining broadband internet services from other service providers to be prohibitive.

Having experienced delays and communication failures in our internet communications, the Greene County Health Department would welcome Illinois Century Network's upgrade to fiber optic technology. We feel the expansion of broadband connectivity would increase the efficiency of our internet communication, saving time that could be used for other efforts.

We appreciate the availability of Illinois Century Network's broadband services to our agency, and would be very pleased with an expansion of their broadband connectivity. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (217) 942-6961 or by email at [rgreene@idphnet.com](mailto:rgreene@idphnet.com).

Respectfully,

Ruth Ann Flowers, R.N., B.S.  
Public Health Administrator





# Coles County Sheriff's Department

701 7<sup>th</sup> Street • Charleston, IL 61920-2102 • (217) 348-7332

Darrell Cox, Sheriff

Brent Butler, Chief Deputy

18 March, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

Please consider this letter indicating my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our office serves as the hub for network services for not only internet, but law enforcement data for all of Coles, serving over 800 employees in the Charleston/Mattoon area. Local telecommunication costs in our area for 'last-mile' connectivity have increased 8 fold in recent years. Due to these rising costs, in part, we are still utilizing the same bandwidth as we were in 2003, straining our ability to complete some tasks in as efficient a manner as in the past

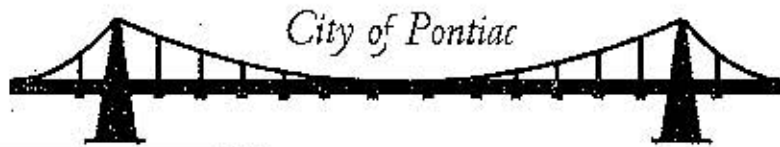
Network speed has become increasingly important in recent years, yet costs to end users continue to increase, making it difficult to expend funds for greater bandwidth. Many home users have substantially greater bandwidth than do we, even though our need may be greater.

It's my understanding that should the Illinois Century Network be approved for funding, many of the bottlenecks could be resolved by upgrading to a new fiber network, making it more economically feasible for local governments to upgrade their network infrastructure, lower costs, and increase availability, capability, and productivity.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing this application for State of Illinois' broadband stimulus finding, please contact me at 217.348.7332.

Sincerely,

Darrell A. Cox, Sheriff



February 8, 2010

Scott H. McCoy  
*Mayor*

Scott A. Genung  
Director of Telecommunications & Networking  
Illinois State University  
105 Williams Hall Annex  
Normal, Illinois 61790

Sharon L. Dunham  
*Clerk*

Dear Mr. Genung:

Oscar R. Kohlman  
*Treasurer*

The Pontiac City Council recently heard a presentation on the plans for development of a broadband network in Central Illinois. We are very supportive of your efforts to secure the grants necessary for construction of this system. The City of Pontiac looks forward to providing as much assistance as possible.

Robert M. Karls  
*Administrator*

Sincerely,

Alan M. Schrock  
*Attorney*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent.

Robert T. Russell  
Mayor

RTR/dlt

wp:05r020810



## City of LEXINGTON

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February 16, 2010

Scott Gering  
Director of Telecommunications and Networking  
Illinois State University  
105 Williams Hall Annex  
Normal, IL 61790

Dear Scott,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Lexington to express our support for the *Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network* initiative proposed by Illinois State University. As a small rural community it's nearly impossible to produce the kind of connectivity and high speed network capabilities that you propose on our own.

I have reviewed the proposed project with Illinois State University. The idea that a collaboration of education, healthcare, public safety, government, not-for-profit and commercial institutions can work together to build affordable high speed networks is appealing. I believe that enhanced information technologies will be fundamental to economic development in the City of Lexington. I hope the project and the associated grant request will be considered for the benefits that can be achieved - affordable high speed network connections, enhanced interconnectivity between City facilities and rural service organizations and networks, enhanced educational opportunities in our school and even local investment in commercial development.

Respectfully,

John Mohr  
Mayor  
City of Lexington



IT Department • 102 N Neil St • Champaign IL 61820 • (217) 403-8970 • fax (217) 403-8983 • [www.ci.champaign.il.us](http://www.ci.champaign.il.us)

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March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

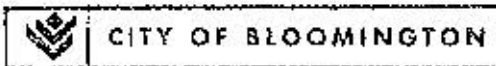
The City of Champaign is a municipal government that uses the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for Internet access. There are other agencies within the City that use ICN for their connection as well. Extending the middle mile components of this network can only help to further connect communities across the State and locally. Local impacts can range from students being able to have quicker access to information and services improvements that would allow our local library to reduce wait time for patrons simply reserving a book.

Another function that this project could improve is the ability to co-locate facilities for emergency and disaster recovery purposes. ICN's project could extend the middle mile component allowing agencies to select backup sites that are further away while being able to function at local network speeds. Currently, there are some limited resources that might suit this function, but options are currently too cost prohibitive.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-403-8970 or by email at [fred.halenar@ci.champaign.il.us](mailto:fred.halenar@ci.champaign.il.us).

Sincerely,

Fred Halenar,  
Information Technologies Director



Stephen F. Stockton, Mayor  
109 E. Olive, P.O. Box 3157  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-3157

January 19, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a statement of support from the City of Bloomington, Illinois for the Central Regional Illinois Broadband Network (CIRBN) initiative. The City of Bloomington plans to support the CIRBN initiative by providing physical infrastructure and facilities where ever feasible. Existing, City owned and/or maintained conduit and core node location facilities will be available for consideration. In addition, where new conduit and fiber pathways need to be installed, the City of Bloomington will assist, within the scope of its power, with right of way approval.

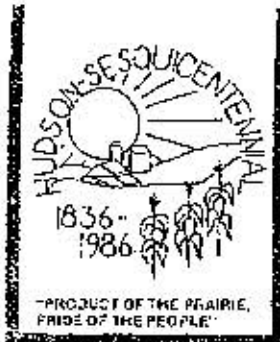
The City of Bloomington sees the CIRBN initiative as a project with potential to bring far-reaching benefits, some as yet undiscovered, to Bloomington/Normal and the outlying communities within McLean County. The possibility of connecting some of the surrounding communities to a high speed, shared access network brings with it many possibilities for resource connectivity, utilization, and sharing. Such connectivity will also bring economic development benefits to the region for years to come.

Benefits specific to the City of Bloomington include increased connectivity between existing locations, possible new connectivity to locations currently not served, new disaster recovery options, new options for public safety connectivity, including access to previously unavailable information, (i.e. surveillance camera video), increased capability to share resources with other agencies and organizations within the community, increased bandwidth, and lowering the cost for internet connectivity by participating in a pooled environment.

Thank you for considering the City of Bloomington within the scope of the CIRBN initiative. The City of Bloomington sees itself as a strong partner with major involvement in the CIRBN initiative and looks forward to the benefits it will bring to all citizens in the region.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Stockton  
Mayor



**VILLAGE OF  
HUDSON**

P. O. BOX 221  
HUDSON, IL 61748

March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) project and proposal.

The Village of Hudson, Illinois is a small town located in Central Illinois. The CIRBN would be of great value to our small community if it were to be implemented. It would allow the Village of Hudson to have a more reliable broadband service than we currently have. Also, the economic benefits of having a reliable and cost efficient broadband network would be invaluable. CIRBN would allow the Village of Hudson to attract new businesses to the community, and enhance opportunities for current businesses. It would also allow our local elementary school and emergency service providers access to local hospitals.

We are very excited about the possibilities and again are in support of the CIRBN project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Kettie".

Mark J. Kettie  
Village President  
Hudson, Illinois

# Healthcare



March 19, 2010

Scott A. Genung  
Director of Telecommunications and Networking  
Illinois State University  
105 Williams Hall Annex  
Normal, IL 61790-3500

Dear Scott,

I am writing this letter in support of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) and its combined grant proposal with the Illinois Century Network (ICN). Since 1973, Chestnut Health Systems has been providing behavioral health services in Illinois. Almost 700 Chestnut employees provide chemical dependency and mental health treatment to thousands of clients annually over a broad section of central and southern Illinois. We provide services to help individuals and families lead healthier lifestyles, to help employers meet the behavioral health needs of employees, and to assist health and human services professionals in their quest to better their clients' quality of life. Chestnut, a community-based not-for-profit corporation, serves all local constituencies, regardless of a client's ability to pay. The vast majority of our clinical clients are indigent and meet federal poverty guidelines.

Chestnut's services are focused in six primary areas:

- **Adolescent and Adolescent Chemical Dependency** including inpatient and outpatient services in central and southern Illinois as well as community and school-based early intervention with children and community-based alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention, and parenting education and early intervention services for young moms ;
- **Employee Assistance Programs** – offered to corporations to enhance behavioral services available to members of their workforce;
- **Credit and Debt Counseling** – debt management and counseling for families and individuals at risk of bankruptcy
- **Mental Health Services for the seriously and persistently mentally ill** – psychiatric services, medication management and monitoring, case management, psychosocial rehabilitation programming to include life skills building, vocational evaluation and training, individual and group therapy services, and supervised and supported living services; individual, family and

1003 Martin Luther King Drive  
Bloomington, Illinois 61791  
phone: 309.827.5026 • TTY: 309.827.7267  
fax: 309.820.3745 (Client Records) • fax: 309.820.3574 (Administrative)  
[www.chestnut.org](http://www.chestnut.org)



# MARSHALL BROWNING HOSPITAL

618-542-2146  
FAX (618) 542-4756

900 NORTH WASHINGTON, P. O. BOX 192  
DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS 62832



March 10, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We support the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are in favor of providing high speed fiber connection that would allow us to better communicate with other hospitals to provide fast and reliable patient care. Our customer base numbers are into the thousands and continues to grow. There are seasonal changes depending on activities at our local State Fairgrounds meaning that at any time we can have 50,000 or more visitors in our community. CT, MRI and other imaging technology continue to change the detail they can obtain is what we will need to be able to support in the foreseeable future.

While we could purchase more T1's to provide greater access for remote doctors and hospitals the cost is to great. We need to have cost effective scaleable service available that will allow easy of use for our senior age patients. Doctors would be able to reliably access Hospital services in a more efficient manner.

Being in a rural area, services use common carrier. To change providers in a rural area, you will have special fees to provide the same services. These fees may cause a rise in cost to change to a level where smaller hospital can not afford to switch. Many areas don't have cable service available, so for our elderly to have computer access they would have to purchase broadband devices which they may not understand how to setup or use dial up which makes transferring images (graphics) nearly impossible.

With higher bandwidth, our remote doctors and hospitals should be able to read images in a more efficient capacity and should not have to wait for images to download as they do today.

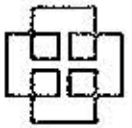
Thank you for your time in reading this letter. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-542-2146 X3254 or by email at [depplin@marshallbrowninghospital.com](mailto:depplin@marshallbrowninghospital.com).

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Epplin  
Director of IT and Maintenance

# Institute for Psychoanalysis

David M. Ferman, M.D.  
Director



122 South Michigan Avenue, 13th Floor  
Chicago Illinois 60603  
312.922.7474  
Fax 312.922.5656  
[www.chicagoanalysis.org](http://www.chicagoanalysis.org)

March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

This letter is to express the support of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis for the allocation of Round 2 BTOP funds to the Illinois Century Network. As a non-profit educational and mental-health services institute, we rely on ICN to provide affordable bandwidth that is critical to our operations. Our therapists serve in the greater Chicago area, providing reduced-fee mental healthcare to children and adults. Our administrative offices and educational programs, located in downtown Chicago, require significant broadband resources to provide access to over a hundred employees, therapists, faculty, and students.

The ICN fiber project would allow us to increase bandwidth enough to support a virtual classroom environment using streaming video. The ability to conduct psychotherapy sessions and supervisory training via internet conferencing is another powerful tool currently being explored. In order for us to grow in these new areas, it is important that ICN also grow to support our needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 312-922-7474 x319 or by email at [scot@chicagoanalysis.org](mailto:scot@chicagoanalysis.org).

Sincerely,



Scot Aushorn  
Library Director



**Gibson Area Hospital  
& Health Services**  
*GIBSON GETS IT*

1120 N. Melvin, Gibson City, IL 60936  
Administration – (217) 784-2600  
FAX: (217) 784-2610  
Hospital Main Number: (217) 784-4251

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March 3, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

Gibson Area Hospital, a 25 bed Critical Access Hospital, located in Gibson City, Illinois fully supports the application by the Illinois Century Network to receive stimulus funds in their endeavor to provide more bandwidth to organizations they provide ISP services to. Our hope would be that ICN could then provide GAHHS with increased bandwidth at a rate that is much more affordable than our current solution.

Gibson Area Hospital is fully engaged in partnering with other Critical Access Hospital's to form a Health Information Exchange (HIE) for the state of Illinois. The creation of this exchange will improve the sharing of information between health care providers and ultimately improve population health. The increase demand for bandwidth continues to grow as more applications become web based. File sizes from Electronic Medical Records continue to get larger, and the increased demand for fast, reliable access continue to burden health care providers. The government goals of all physicians meeting Meaningful Use thru the use of Electronic Health Records make the need for more bandwidth even more critical.

Gibson City is a rural community. Internet options in this area are limited. The providers to choose from are Mediacom (Cable TV/Internet), DSL thru AT&T, or some smaller organizations that offer wireless. Two years ago the hospital moved to a Mediacom Fiber Enterprise solution, that provided GAH with a 20 mbps connection, but the cost of this solution is high, and we have had and continue to have numerous issues with reliability of this connection.

As Director of Information Technology at Gibson Area Hospital I serve as the lead technical contact for the hospital, our employed physicians, and physicians associated with GAH. Should you have questions or need additional information from me please feel free to contact me at Gibson Area Hospital. My phone number is (217) 784-2229 or my e-mail address is [sean\\_patrick@gibsonhospital.org](mailto:sean_patrick@gibsonhospital.org).

Sincerely,

Sean M. Patrick - Director of Information Technology

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean M. Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.



# Illinois Rural HealthNet

Improving health care through connectivity

March 24, 2010

Lori Sorenson  
Director, Illinois Century Network

RE: Support Letter for Application for BTOP Funding

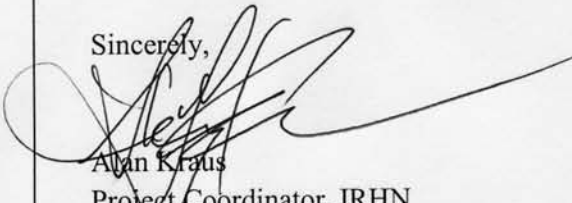
Dear Lori,

The Illinois Rural HealthNet (IRHN) is a 501(c)(3) that was established to help provide high speed connectivity to rural health care providers throughout the State of Illinois. As a participant in the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program, the IRHN seeks to identify and implement cost-effective approaches for our network requirements, working through the procurement procedures as outlined by the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

The IRHN is pleased to provide this support letter to the Illinois Century Network for its application for BTOP funding. A successful implementation of this project's objectives is very likely to offer improved opportunities to identify affordable broadband options in the 100Mbps to 1Gbps range for the IRHN. Should this occur, the capability of the IRHN to fully achieve the Pilot Program's objectives would be significantly enhanced, because the options for high speed rural connectivity in Illinois are limited at the present time.

Therefore, the IRHN supports the Illinois Century Network application for BTOP funding.

Sincerely,



Alan Kraus

Project Coordinator, IRHN

Northern Illinois University

Illinois Critical Access  
Hospital Network

Tri-Rivers Health Partners

Metropolitan Research  
and Education Network

Illinois State University

Janet Wattles Center

Ben Gordon Center

Sinnissippi Center

Delnor Hospital

University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign

Carle Foundation Hospital

Southern Illinois University  
School of Medicine,  
Telehealth Networks and  
Programs





03/09/2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We would enthusiastically support the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Application. My organization is Crawford Memorial Hospital; we serve Crawford County of Illinois. We currently employ 12 physicians, and also support several physicians more in the county.

With our ICN network, critical data is made to available our physicians from any location they choose. It also makes information available to be sent to other locations. With higher bandwidths, the critical information is available in a timelier manner.

Rural areas like ours don't having the luxury of choosing high speed internet access.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, they will be able to provide a higher bandwidth for our applications. We will also be able to transmit our data electronic Health Exchanges.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 546-2551 or by email at [tim.richard@crawfordmh.org](mailto:tim.richard@crawfordmh.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Timothy Richard'.

Tim Richard  
IS Coordinator  
Crawford Memorial Hospital



## Community Health & Emergency Services Inc.

### **Administration**

148 East Pleasant Hill Road  
One Enterprise Place, Suite 107  
Carbondale, IL 62903-6160  
618-4570450 telephone 618-4577329 fax

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information  
Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network  
Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

Community Health & Emergency Services, Inc. (CHESI) herein offers its support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application.

CHESI is Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) system of care, serving seven southern Illinois counties which include Alexander, Pulaski, Pope, Hardin, Jackson, Saline and White. The first four counties we identify are the poorest in the state and among the poorest in the nation. Pope County is the most sparsely populated county as well. CHESI operates eleven clinical facilities, providing primary medical, dental and behavioral healthcare services to more than 23,000 patients receiving more than 80,000 office visits per year. CHESI also operates an 83-bed skilled nursing home in Cairo, a same-day surgery center, CLIA-rated "high complexity" diagnostic laboratory, an urgent care department and a radiology department offering mammography at the Cairo Mega Clinic, the largest of our facilities.

One of the critical problems we have had to deal with is the lack of adequate infrastructure to provide broadband services in many parts of our service area. We moved our IT center to our Carbondale administrative office because Verizon made a business

decision not to invest in the needed infrastructure south of Marion. And in many of the smaller counties we serve, even DSL is not available.

This comes at a time when connectivity and available bandwidth is more important than ever, as CHESI is transitioning to an Electronic Health Records system which will allow us to better and more safely serve our populations, many of whom are members of the chronically unemployed or underemployed, and the majority of whom depend upon Medicaid or CHESI's sliding fee discount program to access needed health care.

The improved access to broadband is critically important at the "last mile" of connection so to speak, where the importance of electronically transportable medical information will result in far better health care, improved patient outcomes, the saving of lives, and a subsequent reduction in health care costs, - goals we should all embrace.

Thank you for your attention to this information.

If I can offer additional information in support of this application, or be otherwise helpful, please don't hesitate to call upon me. I include my contact information.

Respectfully,



Frederick L. Bernstein  
Chief Executive Officer

618 457 0450; 618 734 4400 [fbernstein@chesi.org](mailto:fbernstein@chesi.org)





March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

We are writing this letter to express support for the Illinois Century Network's grant application. Pinckneyville Community Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital serving all of Perry County and their citizens. By allowing the ICN to expand their services through the proposed fiber project our organization would benefit greatly by serving the community by offering greater healthcare services to our citizens. With the evolution of health exchanges, the hospital's needs for growing bandwidth and technology will continue to expand in the near future.

Finding affordable telecommunications options in rural, downstate Illinois continues to be quite challenging. The Illinois Century Network continues to play an important role to force the market into providing and offering affordable solutions. The ICN's push towards offering greater competition as well as government leadership has offered our hospital the ability to transfer PACs files, electronic health records, and other patient related information over high-speed telecommunications lines. As our needs continue to grow, finding affordable solutions is always a difficult challenge.

Over the next couple of years we expect our demand for bandwidth to continue to grow exponentially. Without affordable telecommunications that is supported by a reliable and professional carrier(s), our healthcare partners and patients in rural Illinois would be at risk. The expansion of the ICN is an attractive option to meet the needs. In addition, consumers and patients from the home will create additional demand for more bandwidth if they seek to interact directly with the healthcare solutions located inside the hospital and community.

We would like to thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for their support in this type of initiative to help rural Illinois and the healthcare industry. We fully support the Illinois Century Network's proposal and hope, for the benefit of Illinois citizens, you consider their application.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us. We can be reached at 618 -357-2187 or via email at [thudgins@pvillehosp.org](mailto:thudgins@pvillehosp.org) or [kjcarson@pvillehosp.org](mailto:kjcarson@pvillehosp.org).

Respectfully,

Thomas Hudgins, FACHE  
Administrator/CEO  
Pinckneyville Community Hospital

Kara Jo Carson, CPA, MACC, CHFP  
CFO/Compliance & Privacy Officer  
Pinckneyville Community Hospital

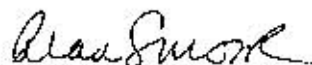
group counseling, including domestic violence counseling; outreach to our senior population, crisis stabilization residential services

- **Housing Services** – Chestnut provides, through owned or leased properties, safe and secure housing for the mentally ill, including those who were formerly homeless, and substance-abusing women with children.
- **Lighthouse Institute** – a nationally-reputed program providing behavioral health research, program evaluation services, and professional training services

If CIRBN becomes a reality, Chestnut and its mission will benefit from better Internet bandwidth at reduced cost over our present services, as well as provide improved connectivity options to our two remote central Illinois facilities. Our research division alone, the Lighthouse Institute, requires wide bandwidth to support its nationwide network of substance abuse providers who use its assessment tools to better treat their clients. Also, as Chestnut moves to expand its current use of electronic medical records, reliable and robust bandwidth will become increasingly critical to our clinical operations as well. As an indication of our organizational commitment to this initiative, Chestnut has agreed to provide the necessary facilities to host a node on the network at our corporate headquarters in Bloomington.

Feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions. I can be reached at [asender@chestnut.org](mailto:asender@chestnut.org) or via phone at (309) 820-3579.

Sincerely,



Alan Sender  
Chief Operating Officer

	<b>LeRoy CUSD #2</b> 600 East Pine Street LeRoy, IL 61752 <i>Valuing: "Honor, Character, Communication, and Competition"</i>	
Erin Conn, Elementary Principal <a href="http://www.leroy.k12.il.us">www.leroy.k12.il.us</a>	Gary R. Tipsord, Superintendent Phone: (309) 962-4211	Steve Reschke, Jr-Sr High Principal Fax: (309) 962-9312

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
 National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
 U.S. Department of Commerce  
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

LeRoy Community School District No. 2 serves the community of LeRoy, IL with approximately 3500 residents. The School District has approximately 900 students and 120 staff. We are located in Central Illinois on Interstate 74 between Bloomington and Champaign. Our School District currently accesses the Internet in three manners. We have a location with ADSL (768kbps), a location with cable Internet service (6mbps), and a location with a contracted fiber connection (8mbps) with the local cable provider to the ICN network in Rantoul. Each connection has costs associated. We pay on average about \$10,000/year in Internet costs between all connection services.

We are seeking to unify our campus connections to better serve our staff and students. Our biggest problem we face is maintaining filters at each location providing a connection to the Internet. This becomes a very difficult and hard to manage problem.

Because of our rural location and school district we are limited to lower bandwidth services at higher costs as well as locations which can't get faster service due to older carrier hardware or services just not available in those areas of the community. We see peak Internet usage causing certain delays in streamed services such as Discovery Channel Online.

CIRBN will provide many benefits to our school district as well as our community. We see great possibilities in increased speeds and connectivity to unify our services as well as provide higher speed connections to services such as Discovery Online.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Tipsord, Superintendent

Personal Authorized legally to act on behalf of the Entity

GRT/klm

MAR-16-2010 08:31

Teleologic Learn

2176482479

P.003

**TELEOLOGIC LEARNING COMPANY**

114 SW Arch Street  
Atlanta, Illinois 61723  
United States of America  
phone 217-648-5077  
fax 217-648-2479  
www.teleologic.net

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

Teleologic Learning Company, located in Atlanta, Illinois designs and produces online training for a variety of clients, including government and private entities throughout Illinois and across the United States. Employees of Teleologic currently access the internet via our phone carrier, Verizon, Inc. using half a dedicated T1 line.

While the service provided by the bandwidth arrangement we have in place with Verizon is good, the monthly cost is very high for a small organization such as ours.

We have sought bids from alternate providers but have run up against similar, if not higher, costs.

Should Teleologic be able to secure lower access rates, it would help in our ongoing attempts to reduce overhead administrative costs and thereby help make our business more stable.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any additional questions, using the contact information noted above.

Sincerely,

William M. Thomas, CEO  
Teleologic Learning Company

Village of Arrowsmith  
P.O. Box 44  
Arrowsmith IL 61722

Phone: (309) 727-1150

January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

Scott Geneng  
Director of Telecommunications and Networking  
Illinois State University  
105 Williams Hall Annex  
Normal, IL 61790

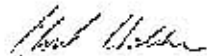
Scott,

I am writing this letter of support for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network grant effort on behalf of the Village of Arrowsmith. Arrowsmith is a small community located in the eastern half of McLean County and has had a difficult time attracting any interest from service providers for high speed or broadband internet services. Because of this our local government, emergency services and businesses within the village are unable to realize the benefits of technology and the efficiencies that high speed internet access provides.

We believe that access to the type of network that is being planned is critical to foster economic growth, educational opportunities and will allow smaller local governments to be able to utilize and access the same types of technologies that are afforded larger communities. We are hopeful that the CIRBN effort is successful in their request for grant approval which would provide funding for this effort.

Thank You

Chad Walden



Village of Arrowsmith President

Kenneth Martin  
City Clerk

Vicki Martin  
Treasurer

City Engineer

Blinn Bates  
Attorney

Fred Finchum, Mayor

City of Atlanta, Illinois

PO BOX 385 107 NE First Street

Atlanta, Illinois 61723

Phone 217-648-2351 Fax 217-648-2070

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications  
And Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

This letter is in support of the Central Illinois Broadband Networks loan application for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). Our community commends the efforts of Congress, and NTIA for this opportunity to provide funding to qualified companies like CIRB in order to bring essential broadband services and opportunities to Rural America.

The Rural Electrification Program laid the foundation for the creation of jobs and services in Rural America and has been extremely successful. The BTOP program is a natural extension of that initiative that will bring technology advances to all of America with no community left behind. After reviewing CIRB plan for our community as well as the other rural communities of central and southern Illinois, I feel strongly that the full measure of the spirit of Broadband will be met.

In the remote rural areas America, such as Atlanta, we appreciate these programs and the endeavors of CIRB to keep pace with major urban cities both here and abroad. We look forward to working with CIRB to bring broadband technology to ours and other rural communities of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Fred Finchum, Mayor  
City of Atlanta



# PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

1100 INDIANA AVENUE  
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS 61764  
Phone 815-844-6113

March 8, 2010

Group for CIRBN LLC

Scott Genung, Director of Telecommunications and Networking at Illinois State University

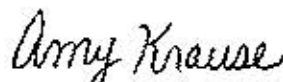
Dear CIRBN LLC and Co-Applicants,

I am writing this letter in support of the CIRBN Broadband Stimulus Grant Application. I am the Technology Coordinator at Pontiac Twp. High School District 90. Pontiac Twp. High School is a 9-12 district serving around 850 students and around 120 faculty and staff members. The county career center is also physically attached to the high school where it serves Pontiac Twp. High School students plus around 150 students from area schools in Livingston County. Pontiac is a community of 12,000 people located in Central Illinois.

We currently have an 11MB fiber connection to Illinois Century Network. Though Internet usage in the District grows continually, our options for increasing bandwidth to meet our needs are still limited and cost prohibitive. Not only does our Internet usage grow, the types of resources and activities we need to access, including streaming video, require greater and greater bandwidth. The bandwidth that will be made possible under CIRBN would significantly impact the educational opportunities that we can provide our students.

Pontiac Township High School District 90 supports the CIRBN Broadband stimulus grant proposal and we look forward to the possibilities it can provide to our District. If I can be of any assistance in advancing CIRBN's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-844-6113 or by email at [krausea@pontiac.k12.il.us](mailto:krausea@pontiac.k12.il.us).

Sincerely,



Amy Krause  
Technology Coordinator  
Pontiac Twp. High School District 90

# Higher Education

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY



*Transforming Lives. Inventing the Future.*

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Illinois Institute of Technology wishes to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Illinois Institute of Technology is a national, technological, Ph.D.-granting research university, with world-renowned programs in engineering, architecture, the sciences, humanities, psychology, business, law, and design. Our school has five campuses throughout the greater Chicagoland metropolitan area and provides educational services to 1,000's of students annually.

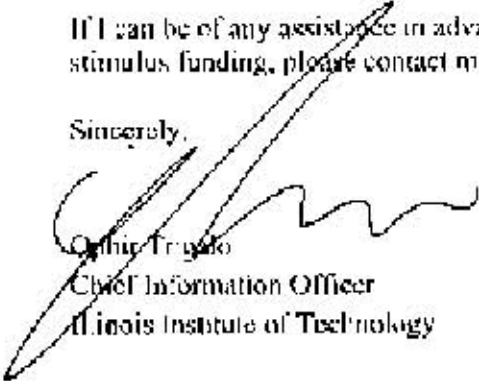
Currently, middle mile bandwidth is a very expensive service that IIT obtains through a single provider, AT&T. Thus we are aware of how expensive these services are. We can only imagine how much greater they are for a larger organization such as the Illinois Century Network. Approving funding for the ICN Broadband application will enable the ICN to offer more bandwidth at a significantly lower cost to all users state-wide, including IIT. In turn, that will reduce our costs allowing the University to invest capital more directly into education and research. It will also allow us to offer greater bandwidth to DeLaSalle Institute, a high school that is adjacent to our main campus in Chicago.

An additional benefit of having the ICN use state owned fiber is that it gives educational institutions a carrier neutral path that is not subject to the disputes or interference of private businesses. This greatly improves the redundancy that we can build into the network and offers a lower cost for disaster recovery.

We believe that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer improved bandwidth, lower costs and more options for redundancy and disaster recovery.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 312-567-3290 or by email at [rcigalo@iit.edu](mailto:rcigalo@iit.edu).

Sincerely,

  
Robert Truitt  
Chief Information Officer  
Illinois Institute of Technology

[www.iit.edu](http://www.iit.edu)

Office of Technology Services  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Stuart Bldg. Room 007  
10 West 31st Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60616

312-567-3983  
312-567-3966 Fax  
city@iit.edu



UNIVERSITY  
CENTER

COME HERE. GO FAR

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing in you in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. As a provider of higher education in the northern Illinois region, with a significant emphasis on delivering education in innovative ways, reliable broadband at reasonable cost is absolutely critical to our success in serving the students and businesses of the region.

The University Center of Lake County is a unique higher education program serving the needs of Lake County as well as northern Cook County in northern Illinois. We offer a broad spectrum of bachelors and masters level programs – primarily for working adults – through a number of member universities. We are able to do this by leveraging technology in most everything we do – with an emphasis on the use of broadband for videoconferencing as well as for students to connect to their university's home campus network for content and communications. In addition we provide webcasts of class sessions, as well as on-demand viewing of selected classes for students.

There is no question that reliable, available, and cost effective broadband access is key to innovative models in education. It evens the playing field by enabling all students to have equal access to faculty and learning resources, without the cost of relocation and travel. It is the use of such technology that enables us to serve students who are place-bound, so that they can continue to work and support their families while completing their education.

The increased capacity that the ICN fiber network will provide will enable us to extend our capacity for distance learning as well as for leveraging technology for on-demand access to lectures, presentations, and video.

1200 University Center Drive  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
(847) 665-4000



UNIVERSITY  
CENTER

COME HERE DO NOT FAIL

Should you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance in helping evaluate the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (847) 665-4005, or by email at [jkane@ucenter.org](mailto:jkane@ucenter.org).

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Kane

Director - Technology and Business Development  
University Center of Lake County

1200 University Center Drive  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
(847) 665-4000



ILLINOIS OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Illinois Office of Educational Services is a research, curriculum and administrative services resource for Illinois educators and trainer. We conduct classes, webcasts, training workshops and other educational services from our computer lab and webcast studio. We rely on our bandwidth to provide quality multimedia services.

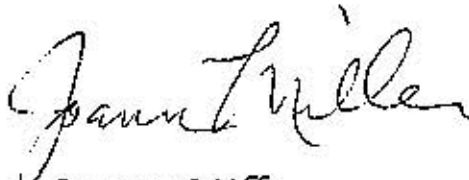
The focus of the Illinois Office of Educational Services (IOES) is to be an indispensable resource to educators, trainers, and learners of all disciplines. The IOES recognizes the necessity of providing assistance to educators, trainers, and learners of all disciplines who are attempting to keep up with rapid changes in the education and training environment.

Our current bandwidth does restrict our ability with some of our services. With increased bandwidth we will be able to reach a broader audience with our training sessions, workshops, webcasts, etc. and provide high quality services.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217 786-3010 or by email at [jmiller@ioes.org](mailto:jmiller@ioes.org).



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joann Miller".

*Joann Miller*

*Lan Administrator*

*Illinois Office of Educational Services / SIUC*

*(217) 786-3010 x 236*

*jmiller@ioes.org*



March 11, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

This letter is to express support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) is a public comprehensive university, focusing on undergraduate education, graduate and professional programs, scholarly research, and public service. As part of the Southern Illinois University System, SIUE enrolls over 13,000 students from all 102 Illinois counties, 44 other U.S. states or possessions, and 48 nations.

The Illinois Century Network provides SIUE's faculty and students with Internet connectivity, including connections to other universities, libraries, and research networks. As Internet usage has increased, the cost of commercially available circuits have not decreased, leaving those users not physically connected to high-speed peer locations without affordable bandwidth.

Access to scalable, affordable bandwidth is crucial to the increasing demand for distance learning, telecommuting, and cloud-based services. These technologies allow the University to reach a broader audience and connect students and faculty to peers at other universities for increased collaboration. Examples include providing educational opportunities to health care providers in rural areas they might not otherwise access. The SIU System has worked for several years to develop a comprehensive broadband initiative but has had limited success with commercial providers participating.

Bandwidth demands are outpacing the reduction in rates charged by middle mile service providers. Networks like the ICN allow a wide variety of institutions and agencies to share resources and aggregate connectivity in areas across the United States that have multiple connectivity options.

Construction of a high-capacity fiber optic network will allow the ICN to continue to offer flexible and affordable access to other universities, commercial services, and research networks like Internet2.

If I can be of any assistance in furthering the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-650-5234 or by email at [jvander@siue.edu](mailto:jvander@siue.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer M. Vandever".

Jennifer M. Vandever  
Associate Vice Chancellor for  
Information Technology and  
Chief Information Officer



**Southern**  
Illinois University  
**Carbondale**

Information Technology  
[www.infotech.siu.edu](http://www.infotech.siu.edu)  
[www.siu.edu](http://www.siu.edu)

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

This letter is to support the ICN stimulus application on behalf of Southern Illinois University Carbondale or SIUC. SIUC has an enrollment of around 20,000 students per semester, which includes over 4,000 on-campus students living in our residence halls. SIUC is the largest employer in our region, which is to say the University is a key economic contributor. SIUC is nestled in the southern part of the state and is very inconveniently far removed from a variety of services and other benefits enjoyed in the central and northern parts of the state. Having adequate bandwidth for both the University and the greater community has been to date an insurmountable problem. Repeatedly in my 17 years of service, I have received calls from bandwidth sales people who have very enthusiastically stated their ability to provide bandwidth to the University and at a low price. The common practice has been to provide these vendors an address and phone number for the University and wait for the vendor to determine what they can provide and at what cost. A week to a month later, a very less than enthusiastic sales person would call back and inform me that they cannot provide any bandwidth to SIUC or certainly not at a low price. I can hear the words as though it was just yesterday "Well, we didn't realize you were in that part of the state." Repeatedly, my predecessors and I have approached a variety of vendors seeking either bandwidth or dark fiber. Four years ago, a vendor quoted \$4 million per year for a one gigabit connection. That's \$333.33 per meg per month. In September 2009, a vendor quoted \$138 per meg per month for a 90mbps connection. Another vendor quoted \$7 per meg per month, however SIUC would need to lay 335 miles of fiber from Carbondale to Chicago to take advantage of this great price. A fiber path exists from Chicago to New Orleans that literally runs through the center of the SIUC campus. The fiber owner stated last week that they would not IRU the fiber to SIUC because they did not want to strand fiber from Carbondale to New Orleans. Stated plainly and based on years of experience dealing with this issue, there are no good options for southern Illinois and Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Our need for a middle mile provider is dire. Each semester the enrollment at SIUC is either stagnant or slipping. A huge selling point is the ability to provide bandwidth to our student

population and especially so to those students living on campus. On-campus housing is their home for the semester and the expectation is for Internet connectivity equivalent to the DSL services in their home towns. SIUC must restrict the bandwidth available to each resident to far less than DSL speeds. Affordable bandwidth as a recruitment and retention tool could help SIUC reverse the recent downward enrollment trends. Professors and researchers have left SIUC because of the inability to communicate with collaborators at other higher education institutions. The transmission of huge data sets fail due to a relatively low bandwidth capacity and the lack of a dedicated research and education connection. These failures have resulted in some researchers moving data to physical media and using FedEx as the transport mechanism; a barbaric means in today's digital age. Departing professors and researchers take with them/take away from SIUC the knowledge transfer that is essential to a higher education institution, which means our students are deprived of the wealth of knowledge and experience held by those faculty members. Departing professors and researchers also deprive SIUC of millions and millions of dollars in grant monies; having a direct impact on the University but also on the surrounding community. National level research projects requiring high bandwidth don't get serious consideration at SIUC. SIUC also has resources that could be used by faculty and researchers worldwide but for our bandwidth limitations. Cost effective Internet bandwidth and more importantly research and education network connectivity will be crucial in SIUC achieving its goal of becoming a top 75 research institution as outlined in the Southern at 150 plan.

The Illinois Century Network has been an excellent service provider. The ICN is stable and reliable and they are a great partner. However, the ICN suffers the same stifling limitations when providing services in southern Illinois. Though ICN prices are high, ICN provides redundant connectivity for SIUC which has never been offered by any other would be service provider. ICN too is at the mercy of the same providers in our region who either do not have facilities, who cannot provide service or who simply charge exorbitant prices. No other organization in the State of Illinois is positioned to provide the connectivity and services that SIUC desperately needs.

The ICN round two stimulus application and partner applications must be funded. The southern Illinois region is exactly the bandwidth starved environment the ARRA stimulus funds are intended to serve. If I can be of any assistance in advancing State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me by phone (618.453.6219) or e-mail at (admin@siu.edu).

Sincerely,



Michael Shelton

Deputy Director, Network Engineering and Security Teams  
Information Technology Department  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
625 Wham Drive - Carbondale IL 62901





## Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market

---

3213 S. Park Ave.  
Herrin, IL 62948  
618-942-6902  
Fax 618-942-6658

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) supports the Illinois Century Network (ICN) application for the State of Illinois' Broadband Stimulus grant. SICCM is an educational consortium whose member institutions are five community colleges and one university that provides a means of sharing human and material resources in higher education. SICCM is located in the southern most rural area of Illinois and serves 25 counties in the Lower Mississippi Delta Development region. Increasing bandwidth would provide a means for our high schools and rural communities to offer high quality distance education to assist with the students' transition to college. Telecommunication costs in rural Southern Illinois are well over twice the cost of metropolitan areas, and any enhancements to broadband would impact our region's growth.

Currently, Southern Illinois is running comfortably, however, additional bandwidth would be beneficial to our rural area. With current economic conditions, the institutions are focusing on increasing student enrollments by offering courses through online programs. Growth to the ICN backbone network becomes increasingly more important to our rural, underserved area in Southern Illinois. Available grant dollars would assist our region in supporting these efforts to increase the online programs in our high schools, community colleges, and universities.

We currently have no provider competition in Southern Illinois. Since Verizon and Mediacom are the only two basic carriers for broadband, ICN has been a key element in keeping our costs at a lower rate. ICN is crucial to our operation.

With the higher capacity of the new ICN fiber network, the number of online courses and videoconferencing connections can be increased. This faster fiber backbone would be beneficial with budget reductions in travel expenses, and a new fiber network would support the upgrade to high definition videoconferencing which is also being considered. This type of videoconferencing requires more than twice the bandwidth as traditional videoconferencing.

The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market strongly supports the application of the Broadband Stimulus grant. If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-942-6902 or by email at [sullivan@siccm.com](mailto:sullivan@siccm.com).

Sincerely,

Mary J. Sullivan, Executive Director  
Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market  
3213 South Park Avenue  
Herrin, IL 62948

John A. Logan College, Carterville • Rend Lake College, Ina • Shawnee Community College, Ullin  
Southeastern Illinois College, Harrisburg • Southern Illinois University at Carbondale  
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville





NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

John L. Lewis  
Associate Vice President  
Administration and University Outreach  
Lowden Hall 307  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Office: (815) 753-0936  
Fax: (815) 753-0666  
[jlewis@niu.edu](mailto:jlewis@niu.edu)

March 24, 2010

Lori Sorenson  
Illinois Century Network  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bureau of Communications and Computer Services  
Central Management Services  
State of Illinois

RE: Support Letter for Illinois Century Network for BTOP Funding

Dear Ms. Sorenson,

As you know, Northern Illinois University has been involved in the effort to improve broadband access for a number of years. NIUNet connects our NIU campuses, and is used by governmental and other not-for-profit entities to enhance their operational capabilities. Additionally, our Broadband Development Group works with governments, health care entities, and public safety agencies to upgrade their services via broadband applications and infrastructure.

There remains, however, a strong need for improved broadband infrastructure in Illinois, and for that reason, Northern Illinois University is pleased to support the Illinois Century Network application for BTOP funding. A successful implementation of ICN's objectives will improve opportunities to identify affordable broadband options for municipalities, counties, health care providers, as well as for educational institutions in Illinois. It will also provide increased opportunities for the delivery of higher education programs to individuals that are placed bound and do not have the ability to travel to campus.

Because NIU is aware of this need, and because NIU is committed to assisting in community and economic development in our wider region and all Illinois, we fully support the Illinois Century Network, and believe that its funding by BTOP will result in the more fully realizing the BTOP program objectives in the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

John L. Lewis, PhD  
Associate Vice President  
Northern Illinois University





**NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT**  
DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115-2854  
(815) 753-0783  
FAX (815) 752-0783  
E-MAIL [wczerniak@niu.edu](mailto:wczerniak@niu.edu)  
WEB [www.its.niu.edu](http://www.its.niu.edu)

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Northern Illinois University (NIU) has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) since its inception. While the ICN built the backbone NIU worked with the public communities throughout Northern Illinois to bring low cost high bandwidth services to the last mile. That was over a decade ago and much more is needed. NIU has added K-12 schools, cities, counties hospitals and worked to bring in private parties to supply services to homes and business. The State's primary backbone, operated by the ICN needs major upgrading and the State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant application is critical to this expansion.

NIU has participated with all state of Illinois broadband plans to insure they all interconnect and do not duplicate efforts. Our work on the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership was done to compliment the other state plans.

The work started some 5 years ago to build fiber with private business is already starting to pay off by bringing high speed broadband to our schools at T1 costs. Private businesses are able to obtain high speed communications from multiple parties at competitive rates as fiber backbones have allowed for low cost entry into our rural areas.

ICN's request to build a fiber backbone network will allow for bandwidth increases to all schools and participants with little additional costs to those parties as we are building the last mile with dedicated fiber.

NIU supports this grant request as it is critical to all other state of Illinois broadband plans. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Czerniak  
Associate Vice President, Information Technology



March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Millikin University would like to express its support for the ICN Broadband Stimulus Funds Project. Millikin would benefit from this project by being able to provide affordable bandwidth on campus to our 2300 students and the numerous community members who regularly use the campus facilities for events, meetings, workshops, and learning opportunities provided for the public, including many K-12 age participants.

Presently, we are being limited in what we can provide to our campus community and to the public on our website by the amount of bandwidth we can afford. We presently connect to the Internet through a POP site in Springfield, which adds considerable cost and limits the amount of bandwidth to which we can subscribe because of the distance. The ICN Project would bring that connection to the Internet much closer to our campus and provide the opportunity to increase our bandwidth at a more reasonable cost.

Limited bandwidth has hampered our progress in using technologies such as streaming video to bring a global experience to our students by connecting with our international partners, the ability to provide enough bandwidth for students in their living and learning environment to do research and distance learning, and the ability to use the Internet as a converged technology to provide voice and video to enhance the educational experience.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-362-6488 or by email at [ppettit@millikin.edu](mailto:ppettit@millikin.edu).

Sincerely,

Pat Pettit

Director of Information Technology, Millikin University



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

March 13, 2010

National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We are forwarding this letter to express enthusiastic support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. As the International Center for Advanced Internet Research at Northwestern University, we manage multiple advanced communications and networking facilities. For many years we have worked in partnership with the Illinois Century Network to interconnect communities across the State, the nation, and the world. The ICN fiber project is especially important as a middle mile transport resource. Also, the Northwestern University community relies on ICN fiber to provide a portion of its external Internet connectivity.

Fiber-based middle mile transport is particularly important for integrating research and education communities throughout Illinois. Without access to the type of fiber envisioned by the ICN project, required capacity will not be available and the minimal bandwidth that would be accessible would be prohibitively expensive, especially for smaller education institutions. This fiber will be a key enabler of a proposed on-net service for Illinois, which would dramatically increase capacity and lower costs for multiple research and education constituencies.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 312 503 0735 or [j-mambretti@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-mambretti@northwestern.edu)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Mambretti".

Joe Mambretti

Director,  
International Center for Advanced Internet Research, Northwestern University



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

Office of the President  
421 Hovey Hall  
Campus Box 1000  
Normal, IL 61790-1000  
Phone: (309) 438-5677

February 12, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues:

It is with excitement and hope for the future that I am writing on behalf of Illinois State University to express my unqualified support for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network project (CIRBN). Illinois State University is a diverse community of scholars with a commitment to fostering a small-college atmosphere with large-university opportunities. We promote the highest academic standards in our teaching, scholarship, public service and the connections we build among them. To meet these goals, all of our resources and energies are devoted to creating the most supportive and productive community possible to serve the citizens of Illinois and beyond. I believe that this project embodies these ideals.

The creation of CIRBN will deliver unmet yet affordable unprecedented levels of Internet access to various organizations in the region resulting in new and exciting opportunities within and between the public and private sector. CIRBN will greatly enhance the experience of online coursework and distance education learning. In addition, it will serve as catalyst to support collaboration among colleagues locally and beyond. These partnerships will stimulate economic growth, enhance educational opportunities at all levels, improve the delivery of public sector services, and extend the reach of the Internet for the citizenry of Central Illinois.

Although Illinois State University has provided leadership for this effort since its conception, CIRBN is truly a collaborative endeavor that represents an extended array of organizations in the communities it would serve. It is projects such as this that deliver on the great potential of the Internet for all to benefit. Without it, these opportunities will likely be unrealized for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Al Bowman'.

Al Bowman



# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Campus Information Technologies  
and Educational Services  
2120 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801



Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

To whom it may concern,

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign strongly supports the BTOP CCI application from the Illinois Century Network (ICN). The University and ICN have a long and productive history. We have partnered together in the past, we are partnering today and we look forward to partnering in the future.

The ICN's Point of Presence for east central Illinois is on our campus, and over the years we have grown together. Network engineers from this campus have served in advisory capacities for ICN and we generally have had a good flow of information back and forth.

ICN's round 2 BTOP application is one of a series of regional projects in Illinois that are known collectively as the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Program. Top managers from ICN played a pivotal role in forging partnerships that eliminated duplication but also provided expanded middle mile coverage. Should NTIA fund this proposal, it will be a win for the residents of Illinois and a win for NTIA.

The University has internal reasons for "cheering" for ICN's proposal. This proposal will provide better broadband services to many small communities where our faculty and staff live. This proposal will provide better broadband services to many of the communities where our students grew up and attended high school, probably using ICN Internet connections throughout their K-12 education. The better technology our students are exposed to at an early age, the more likely they are to be successful in our classrooms and later in life.

ICN has been a strong advocate for better broadband through out the state. This grant will allow them to continue to be so. I cannot recommend funding their proposal strongly enough.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Smeltzer  
Director of Networking  
smeltzer@illinois.edu

Academic Computing and Communications Center (MC 135)  
1940 W. Taylor Street, Room 124  
Chicago, IL 60612-7352

March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Assistant Secretary,

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) would like to offer its support to the Illinois Century Network's application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

UIC is a major research university located in the heart of one of the world's great cities. UIC has over 25,000 students, 15 colleges, including the nation's largest medical school. UIC's student body — approximately 65 percent undergraduate and 35 percent graduate and professional — is recognized as one of the nation's most diverse. UIC plays a critical role in Illinois health care and operates the state's major public medical center and serves as the principal educator of Illinois' physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other health care professionals. Our annual research expenditures exceed \$332 million. UIC consistently ranks among the top 50 out of more than 637 national universities in federal research funding.

The ICN proposal is of critical importance to UIC because of our increasing need for higher bandwidth network connectivity to many rural sites. Here are a few of the needed applications for higher bandwidth capacity:

Our College of Medicine is a participant in the Rural Health Initiative. This will require additional capacity to many locations in Illinois, some of them very rural and underserved.

Our College of Pharmacy is about to begin offering classes in Rockford. This will involve multiple, simultaneous, hi-definition video feeds for classrooms. A minimum of 30mb of additional bandwidth will be required.

Our College of Nursing requires additional network capacity to Peoria, Rockford, and the Quad Cities to support their mission.

UIC relies heavily on ICN to provide connectivity within Illinois for both data and video transport to schools, libraries and other agencies.

UIC also uses ICN as transport for some of its commodity Internet traffic. If capacity could be increased, the entire UIC community would benefit.

UIC research projects could be enhanced if ICN had the capability to provide high capacity layer2 services to our research partners in Illinois.

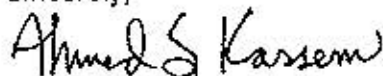


It is very difficult and in some cases impossible to obtain high bandwidth services from commercial carriers to many rural areas of Illinois simply because it is not economically feasible for these carriers to serve these areas.

ICN is the only network today that reaches "most" of Illinois. It is a very valuable resource to UIC and we hope you will grant their proposal.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ahmed S. Kassem". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'K'.

Ahmed Kassem  
CIO, ViceProvost

## **K-12 Schools**



# Abingdon

Community Unit School District No. 217

Director of Technology: Mark Rogers

(309)462-2338 Extension 326

e-mail: [mrogers@abingdon.k12.il.us](mailto:mrogers@abingdon.k12.il.us)

March 10, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Please find this letter in full support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application for the Illinois Century Network. We are a K-12 school district located in west central Illinois serving approximately 900 students and staff. The ICN fiber project has the potential to greatly benefit our District and Public Library by providing the middle mile and/or last mile transport on the network to our local community.

Our demand for greater bandwidth continues to grow as we become more and more dependent on online services, such as student management, financial management, student assessment and distance learning to name just a few. Our current internet providers have been unable to keep up with our broadband needs at an affordable price. The biggest concern in this area of the state is our ability to connect that last mile.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime if I can be of assistance in helping to determine that this application for Broadband Stimulus Funds is very critical to our district and needs to be approved.

Sincerely,

Mark Rogers  
Director of Technology  
Abingdon CUSD 217  
600 West Martin Street  
Abingdon, IL 61410

Abingdon High School Mission Statement

*The Abingdon High School staff promotes personal and educational growth of its students by providing opportunities to develop their academic, vocational, social and physical skills. The staff strives to prepare successful students, productive citizens and life long learners*

# VANDALIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

UNIT DISTRICT 203  
1109 NORTH EIGHTH STREET  
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS 62471  
TELEPHONE (618) 283-4525  
FAX (618) 283-4107

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,


I am writing this letter to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a medium sized K-12 school district, with an enrollment of 1700 students. Vandalia and the surrounding Fayette County is a rural area about 65 miles east of St. Louis. The benefits of the ICN fiber project would be huge to our area, bringing broadband to both education and commerce.

With increasing dependence on technology in the schools, we are struggling with limited and expensive internet connections. Multiple T1 lines from ATT are the only solution we have found to be viable in this rural area. Many classes depend on internet based software for studying and assessment, and are very frustrated with problems caused by slower internet speeds. With greater bandwidth, these problems would be eliminated, and our curriculum could expand to include streaming video, more online programs, and even distance learning.

We are in an economically blighted area, with a large rural population. Dial-up access is often the only solution for homes. A greater available bandwidth would have a big effect on providing better solutions for connectivity for homes, schools, and commerce. The town of Vandalia is part of the I-70 economic corridor, and would benefit greatly from the ICN fiber project.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-283-4525, or by email at [jisring@fayette.k12.il.us](mailto:jisring@fayette.k12.il.us).

Sincerely,



John Isringhausen  
Technology Coordinator  
Vandalia CUSD 203



## Valley View Public Schools

*Director of Instructional Technology*  
*Don Tufano*

755 Luther Drive  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
Phone: 815.886.2700  
e-mail: [tufanodj@vvsd.org](mailto:tufanodj@vvsd.org)

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application. I am the Director of Technology for Valley View School District in Romeoville, IL. Our school district serves approximately 18,000 students, within 20 schools, and covers two communities: Romeoville and Bolingbrook, IL. Our school district would benefit greatly from the projects outlined in the ICN's funding application given the increased demand by our staff and students for web-based curriculum resources. Increasingly, these resources are in the form of streaming media and web-based applications / services and place a burden on our limited connection to the ICN's network.

The limited bandwidth has already started to have an impact on our ability to deliver content to our staff and students. Our network monitoring tools indicate that at various points through the school day, demand for bandwidth exceeds what is currently available via the ICN. It's unrealistic to think that bandwidth usage will remain static or decline over time.

With the increased capacities that a new ICN fiber network would be able to offer, our school district could continue its attempts to reinvent traditional methods of instruction by embracing technology and the vast amount of resources available. The Internet provides a platform for educators to embrace the culture of our students; one of collaboration, integration, and self-organization.

If there is any way I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630.200.2687 or by email at [tufanodi@vvsd.org](mailto:tufanodi@vvsd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Tufano".

Don Tufano  
Director of Technology

# UNITY POINT SCHOOL

District No. 140  
4033 South Illinois Avenue  
Carbondale, Illinois 62903-7609

Telephone (618) 529-4151  
Fax (618) 529-4154  
Website: <http://www.up140.jackson.k12.il.us>

DR. LORI JAMES-GROSS, Superintendent  
JAMES BEREZOW, Principal  
APRIL HAAR, Principal for Instruction

ANDY MORGAN, President  
RICK ASATURIAN, Vice President  
MOLLY GAFFNEY-KEEBLER, Secretary  
SANDY CHARLSON, Member  
DANNY CHESTER, Member  
MORTEZA DANESHDOOST, Member  
GENE TURK, Member

March 11, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Unity Point School fully supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a PreK-8 district of 679 students with a teaching staff of 56 located in rural Southern Illinois. The ICN fiber project is vital to bringing robust access to the middle mile allowing remote schools, libraries, and the surrounding rural communities the same quality of service as metropolitan areas. Unity Point School will benefit from increased bandwidth to students and teachers, enabling them to adequately implement our 1:1 netbook program using 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tools in our pursuit to exceed state and national academic standards while keeping costs manageable.

The ICN Broadband project is imperative to bringing robust access to the rural roads of America. Educators must teach with today's tools. We try to take students beyond the traditional walls with Learning 2.0 tools providing 2-way Communication: Twitter, Ning, Delicious, Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, Literacy and Math Apps for iPod Touch, Moodle, and Global video casts bringing experts from around the world into our classroom community. But these attempts are hampered by snail internet speeds either ruining the lesson or wasting valuable instruction time. Often the teacher is so frustrated they do not attempt Web 2.0 activities again. We must remove the barriers from America's classrooms.

There are no other providers in our area that can supply the bandwidth that is needed. Our diverse population will benefit; representing a rich intercultural environment with 41% other than white ethnicity, including International and American college students' children, university professors' children and farm community students. The ICN Broadband Project will support our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education endeavors which scaffolds our districts ability to continue to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress in spite of our poverty level of 55.5% and the fact that our operating expenditure per pupil is considerably lower than the state average for district size.

#### Unity Point Mission Statement

*The Unity Point School, our families, and our wider communities embrace the mission to build upon our strong academic standards by providing all students an intellectual, emotional, and social climate that is safe and challenging. Through our varied backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge we model and create an environment for life-long learning.*



To support our academic mission we are installing a 10GB network backbone to provide the infrastructure necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. With this is a surge of multi-media being utilized. Our efforts are meaningless unless aggregate internet bandwidth is available. The most exciting aspect of the ICN project is the increased bandwidth for on-network traffic providing opportunities for shared services at a lower cost. Higher capacity of the ICN fiber network will allow our school to keep up with the current and future demands of externally hosted services, especially for rural school participation in the Illinois Cloud.

I firmly believe the Illinois Century Network will positively affect the future of education if it can keep up with demands of the schools and other entities it serves. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-529-4151 ext 116 or by email at [bgeraci@up140.jacksn.k12.il.us](mailto:bgeraci@up140.jacksn.k12.il.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bea Geraci", written over a horizontal line.

Bea Geraci  
Technology Director

**U**NITED JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL  
1905 - 100<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
MONMOUTH, ILLINOIS 61462

309/734-9411 - PHONE  
309/734-6090 - FAX

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

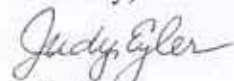
I am writing in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. I am the technology coordinator of United High School, located in west-central Illinois. Our school district, the United C.U.S.D.#304, services approximately 900 students in grades Pre-K through twelve. The project planned by the Illinois Century Network (ICN) could greatly benefit our administration, faculty, and staff should it receive funding.

At this time, our school district has a critical need for access to high speed Internet. Two of our buildings, located about 7 miles west of Monmouth, Illinois, currently have very limited access to bandwidth, which is greatly effecting the learning process of the students who attend these buildings. Lag times, the Internet Freezing, and stuttering videos are just a few of the headaches that our teachers and students have to deal with daily in regards to Internet use. With the amount of information available today on the Internet, high quality and high speed access is a must.

With the higher bandwidth capacities that ICN will provide through this grant, the teachers and students will be able to perform their Internet tasks with ease. Live-streaming of videos, radio broadcasts, etc. so important to the education of today's youth will be able to be done at will. No longer will our students be saddled with losing valuable teaching time due to having to wait for their data to arrive via the Internet.

I applaud ICN for seeing a critical need and striving to meet it through increased bandwidth. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at the numbers below.

Sincerely,



Judy Eyler  
United High School  
Technology Coordinator  
1905 100<sup>th</sup> St.  
Monmouth, IL 61462  
Phone: 309-734-9411  
E-Mail: jeyler@united.k12.il.us

**TRICO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 176**

**John R. DeNosky, Superintendent**

**16411 Highway 4**

**PO Box 220**

**Campbell Hill, IL 62916**

**Phone: (618) 426-1111**

**Fax: (618) 426-3625**

03/15/2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Trico Community Unit District 176 supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our very rural school district covers an area of 250 square miles, including 9 small communities in 3 different counties with an estimated population of 9,000. We have 1000 students (PreK-12) and employ about 150 people. The ICN fiber project would enable our local communities to have increased access to high speed bandwidth at a reasonable cost.

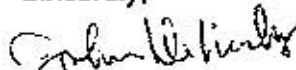
Many homes in our rural area are still on dial-up Internet access (approx. 13%) and others simply can't afford Internet access at all. 20% of those responding to a 2009 parent technology survey report that they have no internet access in their homes. Approximately 50% of our students are on free/reduced lunch.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer our school district will be able to offer our students new educational opportunities through access to Internet 2, interactive curriculum, video streaming, and online classes. The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funding through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) would enable our school district and the surrounding rural area to move forward with technology initiatives well into the future.

The increased network capacity and bandwidth at lower costs will put our rural area in a better position to attract industry and business and connect us to a robust state technology infrastructure.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-426-1111 or by email at [kmorgens@trico176.org](mailto:kmorgens@trico176.org).

Sincerely,



John DeNosky  
Superintendent

Trico Community Unit School District 176  
Campbell Hill, IL 62916

# TAMAROA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

March 11, 2010

*Robert Trover, Superintendent*

P.O. Box 175

Tamaroa, IL 62888

PHONE (618) 496-5513

Assistant Secretary

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Washington, DC 20230

RE: Letter of support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I would like to write in support for the Round 2 BTOP (Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application), offered to the Illinois Century Network. Tamaroa Grade School is a small public school in Perry County with 117 students and 15 employees in Southern Illinois. The village has a population of 650 people. The next largest town 10 miles south of Tamaroa is DuQuoin with a population of 6000 people. With this grant we would be able to increase our internet capacity considerably. This would increase the student's knowledge and capacity in an ever-changing world of technology.

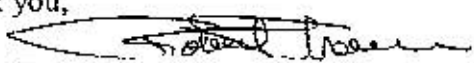
With this grant we could increase the amount of computers we have in the building, including a portable computer lab. This would increase the speed of accessing United Streaming, from Discovery Education (video clips for education). Our challenges with our T-1 line are loading these video clips that take too much valuable learning time.

The cost is higher for Tamaroa Grade School due to the need for two long distant carriers we have for T-1 line. This also causes a lot more "down time". The village and surround country-side do not have any access to good internet access, except for high-cost satellite service. With Tamaroa Grade School being 80% free and reduced lunch, the challenges are even greater.

With a higher capacity that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, Tamaroa Grade School could have more computers running on the web at the same time, faster downloading, and more internet education.

If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me at 618-496-5513 or by e-mail at [rtrover@tgs5.perry.k12.il.us](mailto:rtrover@tgs5.perry.k12.il.us).

Thank you,

  
Robert Trover,  
Superintendent





March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We at St. Jude Church would like to express to you our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We currently use ICN as our internet provider. While we live in an area with other options for internet, ICN is able to provide us with the most cost effective plans. St. Jude Church includes a K-8 grade grammar school, St. Jude School, and is continually striving to provide for our students educational experiences with modern technology so that the students can keep pace with today's society. We are not exempt from the financial pressures other small businesses and non-for-profit organizations are experiencing in today's climate.

We would very much like to increase our bandwidth, but cannot at this time. If ICN was given this grant we would be able to afford the additional bandwidth. At this time all the students in the computer lab cannot be on the internet at the same time. A couple very generous and kind people have donated smart boards for use in our classrooms, but much of the time they do not properly run due to the lack of bandwidth. More bandwidth at a reasonable cost would correct these issues.

We are grateful to ICN with the services they have provided especially for the price. Certainly additional bandwidth would greatly increase our effectiveness in the classroom.

Should I be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband funding, please contact me at 815-485-8049 or [bhickey@stjudes.org](mailto:bhickey@stjudes.org).

Sincerely,

Barbara Hickey  
Business Manager

The Augustinian Friars  
241 West Second Avenue  
New Lenox, IL 60451

P 815 485 8049

F 815 485 7754

School 485 2549

Rel. Educ. Office 485 4852

Youth Ministry 485 8482

Evangelization 485 8580

Adult Faith Formation 485 9999

[www.stjudes.org](http://www.stjudes.org)



**St. Joseph School**

820 East Chestnut Street • Olney, IL 62450 • PH618-395-3081 FX618-395-8500

[www.ouragabba.com/stjosephchurch-olney](http://www.ouragabba.com/stjosephchurch-olney)

email: [stjoseph\\_olney@yahoo.com](mailto:stjoseph_olney@yahoo.com)

March 13, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

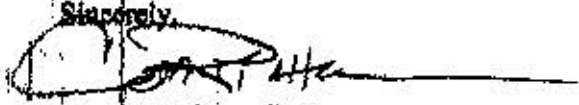
**Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application**

Dear Sir,

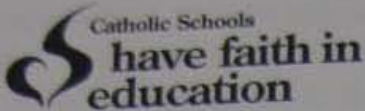
St. Joseph School supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. St. Joseph School is located in Olney, Illinois. It is a Catholic school providing over 100 years of educating children in the local community. The school has children from pre-school through eighth grade. The current student population is 170. The school employs 11 full-time teachers and 4 part-time educators. We also have 3 part-time classroom paraprofessionals providing support in our pre-school program. The mission of the school is offering excellent in education, commitment to service and Catholic faith formation. Additional broadband services would benefit our school community in many ways.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at St. Joseph School, Olney, IL. (618-395-3081).

Sincerely,

  
Carol McKinney Potter  
Principal  
St. Joseph School





## *St. Damian School*

5300 W. 155th Street  
Oak Forest, IL 60452  
(708)687-4230

March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

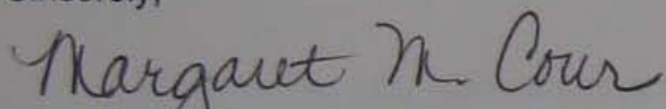
I am writing this letter as a representative for St. Damian School in Oak Forest, IL. We are the only Catholic school in Oak Forest, with a student population of 570 students. Because of the ICN, we have been about to have a T1 line for Internet access for our students and faculty for a reasonable monthly rate, less than \$300 per month. This service was adequate for many years, but now with newer, faster computers, and MORE computers in our school, the T1 line is not meeting our needs. We use the Internet every day, both in our computer lab and in every classroom. In addition, we have two carts with 20 laptops each. We have very slow Internet access when the carts and lab computers are all being used at once. This slow service and the delays in loading interrupt learning and waste precious class time. I would happily support the State of Illinois Broadband Stimulus Application. If ICN could provide fiber to our school, I know I would get faster internet service, but also I know it would be most dependable and reliable, and also be reasonably priced.

ICN has provided our Internet service for almost ten years. The cost is what first drew us to ICN. We could have never had a T1 line without the ICN. The reasonable cost is manageable, and has hardly changed over the years. I am very grateful for that. However, as I stated above, bandwidth speed is becoming an issue, and we are often running into problems when multiple computers are trying to access the internet. Just today, our sixth graders could not get information on important cities of Europe because of slow Internet access. It was a waste of a class period, and students (and teachers) were frustrated. Another instance of trouble with bandwidth is report card time. We use an online student management system, and with many teachers downloading grade books and report cards at the same time, slow bandwidth makes the process very difficult and tedious.

Earlier this year, I researched a faster Internet connection, and got pricing for two options. Comcast would run fiber, with an upfront cost of about \$10,000. Then, the monthly cost would be about \$1000. I got a quote from a company called BOB (Business Only Broadband) with an installation fee of about \$2,500, and a monthly cost of \$715 (for 10 Mbps). While this cost is more reasonable than Comcast, it is double what I am paying now. Being a Catholic school, our funds are generated through tuition and fundraisers. Like everywhere else, money is tight, and it would be very difficult to accommodate this additional monthly cost.

If ICN could offer faster speed at a reasonable cost, our school would be on board. We have a great relationship with ICN, and I trust they will do the best for us - both in speed and cost. Please make the state of Illinois' Broadband Stimulus Funding a priority. Our school and many others would greatly benefit from faster Internet connections at an affordable rate. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for Broadband Stimulus Funding, please contact me at 708-687-4230 or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Cour  
Technology Coordinator

# SHILOH HIGH SCHOOL

## SHILOH COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Mark A. Hettmansberger, Principal

Phone: 217-837-2364

Fax: 217-837-2209

Allen K. Hall, Superintendent

Phone: 217-887-2364

Fax: 217-887-2448

21751N 575<sup>th</sup> Street Hume, Illinois 61932-9707

March 10, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Shiloh CUSD#1 is a small rural K-12 school district. We serve 480 student in east central Illinois. Our poverty rate is almost 70% and we have nearly 30% of the students with IEPs. The district is huge covering 227 sq miles but with a low population density. There are no towns in our district with a population over 1000. This region is agricultural with no local business base and almost no telecommunication infrastructure. We have no cable television and only 40 yr old copper wire in the ground locally. If it were not for the Illinois Century Network we would have no access to internet outside of satellite service. It stretches our budget to pay for a single T1 from Verizon, but there are no other options. Even with e-rate support we cannot purchase bandwidth that does not exist locally. We are not only bound by last mile access, but even middle mile true broadband service to our region is unavailable.

Our community demographics are low educated population with a high percentage of older citizens. The few businesses that once existed are gone due to economic changes and limited local infrastructure to be able to compete.

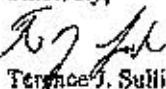
The school T1 is saturated most of the school day. Teachers would access and use more online content and media in the classroom if we had the capacity to support it. In the next few years the education we will be able to offer our students is going to be second or even third rate. Certainly textbooks and curriculum will be moving online in the next five years. At Shiloh we want to be able to offer our students access and a quality education to prepare them to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> world economy. The quality of life and education of our students depends on having access to true broadband at affordable rates.

Healthcare for the citizens of our school district is also impacted by the lack of broadband services. Our local medical clinic and hospital have the same limitations we do. With the current infrastructure there is no option to purchase true bandwidth at any price. The local hospital can literally drive a high-resolution MRI image to a Trauma I Center an hour away faster than it can be transferred across the saturated internet pipe they have available today.

The ICN proposal to connect communities like ours throughout the state with a true fiber network is our best hope. With a true broadband network available, the middle mile problem will go away. We will still have to find a way to solve the last mile problem but the ICN fiber network proposal is a big first step in addressing our telecommunication problems.

We fully support the ICN proposal. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-887-2364 ext 244 or by email at [sullivan@shiloh1.us](mailto:sullivan@shiloh1.us).

Sincerely,

  
Terence J. Sullivan

Proudly serving the communities of  
Brocton, Hume, Metcalf, Murdock, Newman, and Redmon



RIVER



GROVE



JON BARTELT, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

2650 THATCHER AVENUE  
RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS 60171  
PHONE (708) 453-6172

[www.rivergroveschool.org](http://www.rivergroveschool.org)

Board Members  
MARLENE A. FLAHAVEN, President  
LUCIA RUDY, Secretary  
JAMES BINDER  
LINDA HANKINS  
KURT KURAS  
KENNETH MURPHY  
MICHELE ORAYA

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I represent River Grove School District 85.5. We are a one school district with approximately 700 students. River Grove is located in the western suburbs of Chicago. Due to our size and financial status, ICN has made it possible for our school to afford Internet access for our students and staff.

ICN has been providing excellent service to our District for many years. Their tech support team has always responded quickly and efficiently. We depend on their knowledge and support tremendously. Presently, we are seeking to upgrade our Internet access. ICN is helping us in this process. Their guidance is very helpful. I don't know what we'd do without ICN.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please email me at [mstankiewicz@rivergroveschool.org](mailto:mstankiewicz@rivergroveschool.org)

Sincerely,

*Marie Stankiewicz*  
Marie Stankiewicz

Library Media Specialist  
River Grove School District  
2650 N. Thatcher  
River Grove, IL 60171

**REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION**  
***Monroe/Randolph Counties***

Monroe County Office  
107 East Mill Street  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
Tel: (618) 939-5650  
Fax: (618) 939-5332

Randolph County Courthouse  
#1 Taylor Street, Rm. 101  
Chester, IL 62233  
Tel: (618) 826-5471  
Fax: (618) 826-5474



**MARC L. KIEHNA**  
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS

**KELTON DAVIS**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS

March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Monroe-Randolph Regional Office of Education and the communities and schools that we serve, we are providing our complete support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We serve over 11,000 students in our region which is located in the rural area southwest of St. Louis. As we serve rural communities we have partnered with Illinois Century Network since its inception. Without this partnership many of our schools and community organizations would not have had internet access or had limited access for most of the last decade.

Presently, we utilize a community connecting through ICN in Red Bud Illinois. This connection provides sole internet connection for the Public Library, two public school buildings, two private school buildings and our special education cooperative. There is only one major ISP in the community which does not provide an economical solution for both download and upload rates for data sharing. Meanwhile, the infrastructure provided by ICN has been financially feasible for our rural community. However, the amount of traffic is beginning to overload the shared T1 line.

Not only will a fiber network ensure continued services, it will allow for future integration with Illinois' Cloud Network and is critical to continue to provide the consistent and exceptional service our communities rely upon with Illinois Century Network. Without this infrastructure, our community will need to reduce its use of Internet technologies as the bandwidth is being stressed beyond useable levels.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 939-5650 or email [mkiehna@roe45.org](mailto:mkiehna@roe45.org).

Sincerely,

Marc Kiehna  
Regional Superintendent of Schools



March 10, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. My office is one of 45 regional offices of education. The Whiteside Regional Office of Education serves as intermediate agency between the Illinois State Board of Education and the local school districts in the region in rural northwestern Illinois. The regional office serves 10 school districts, over 1,073 school teachers, and approximately 11,128 students. There are many benefits that will be derived from the ICN fiber project. Increased bandwidth has vast potential to enhance student learning and staff development offerings at a cost savings for our constituents.

I have served in this office since 1982. During that time, we piloted a project for the Illinois State Board of Education that linked our local high school districts with Sauk Valley Community College for the purpose of providing distance learning, adult education, and staff development activities. We used voice, data, and video over an ip network. Some 12 years later, I am currently involved with the *Institute for Chemistry Literacy and Computational Science (ICLCS)* to bring 21st Century science and technology to our Illinois rural schools. I am currently one of four regional offices that have become centers for expanding professional development using cutting-edge communication technologies by use of Mini Access Grids (MAG). The AG is an ensemble of resources including multimedia large-format displays which is used to support group-to-group interactions across the Grid. For example, the Access Grid (AG) is used for large-scale distributed meetings, collaborative work sessions, seminars, lectures, tutorials, and training. As with both projects, at the end of the day we are lacking adequate bandwidth at an economical price to make the technology work seamlessly.

With adequate bandwidth, we could provide distance learning, adult education, and staff development opportunities as was proposed and tried years ago. The technology has improved immensely, the dream is still alive, but the lack of bandwidth is still, as it was then, prohibitive.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-625-1495 or by e-mail at [gsteinert@whitesideroe.org](mailto:gsteinert@whitesideroe.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. J. Steinert".

Gary J. Steinert  
Superintendent

GJS:mh





*Bryan Cross*

Regional Superintendent of Schools

Cheryl Scile, Assistant Regional Superintendent

Hamilton-Jefferson Counties

Regional Office of Education

Assistant Secretary

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

I am a network administrator supporting more than fifty school districts in rural, far southern Illinois. We have seen a steady flow of two things over the last ten years: the ongoing drain of money away from our schools and the rapidly rising need for dependable internet access for our staff and students. Unfortunately, they are two separate currents, moving away from each other, and leaving our students alone and dry, like stragglers in the Red Sea.

Most of the schools in Southern Illinois are in rural, remote farming communities. They have T-1 strength access at best, many work with half that. Distance learning is not a possibility for most of them. In many cases Illinois Century Network (ICN) has been their only real option for internet access. Even with Free and Reduced Lunch percentages sitting above 80%, the budget can't pay for access that isn't there.

A higher capacity, serious broadband opportunity through ICN would mean access to hundreds of new learning, training and support opportunities for each of these schools, opportunities that are in some cases already enjoyed by larger communities in the metropolitan areas of our country. In short, by definition, a lack of dependable web 2.0 access is leaving these kids behind.

1714 Broadway, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 \* 618/244-8040 \* Fax 618/244-8073  
Hamilton County Courthouse, McLeansboro, IL 62859 \* 618/643-3314 \* Fax 618/643-2775

[www.roe25.com](http://www.roe25.com)



*Bryan Cross*

Regional Superintendent of Schools

Cheryl Settle, Assistant Regional Superintendent

Hamilton-Jefferson Counties

Regional Office of Education

This is a need, not just a desire. But it is a need coupled with a desire, a desire to do more for our kids; for their future, and ours. If I can answer any questions, provide more information, or perform whatever grunt work it takes to help make this happen, feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Hugh Wilson, MCSE /MCSA (Security+)

Network Administrator

Learning Technology Center Six North/

Regional Office of Education #25

Mt. Vernon, Illinois

618-214-1142

bwilson@roe25.com

1714 Broadway, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 \* 618/244-8040 \* Fax 618/244-8073

Hamilton County Courthouse, McLeansboro, IL 62859 \* 618/643-3314 \* Fax 618/643-2775

[www.roe25.com](http://www.roe25.com)



## REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

DeWitt - Livingston - McLean Counties  
905 North Main Street - Suite #1  
Normal, IL 61761  
Phone: (309) 888-5120  
Fax: (309) 862-0420  
[www.roe17.org](http://www.roe17.org)

Mark E. Jontry

*Superintendent*

Joshua R. Olsen

*DeWitt County Superintendent*

March 5, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C.

I am writing to express my support for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) initiative. Our utilization of and need for increased broadband access by teachers and students in our GED preparation program continues to grow. However, our options for increasing bandwidth to meet our needs are limited and expensive. The increased bandwidth that will be made possible through CIRBN would significantly improve the educational opportunities that we can provide our students and enhance the services of our office. The enhanced educational applications this project will provide for many of our school districts is yet another reason that this initiative has my full support.

I fully endorse the CIRBN grant application and look forward to the opportunities it will provide our region.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Jontry, Regional Superintendent  
DeWitt-Livingston-McLean Counties  
Regional Office of Education # 17  
905 N. Main St., Suite 1  
Normal, IL 61761



# Regional Office of Education Christian-Montgomery Counties



*Dr. Greg Springer*  
Regional Superintendent

March 11, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

The Christian-Montgomery Regional Office of Education fully supports the State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant application. My office is located in central Illinois and serves approximately 70,000 rural residents, including about 11,000 students. Fast, reliable, and affordable internet access is critical to the interests of our populace, which is often left behind because of our relative isolation from services that are already available in larger cities and more densely-populated areas.

Should you have questions or wish further information, please contact me at 217/532-9591 or email me at [springer@montgomery.k12.il.us](mailto:springer@montgomery.k12.il.us). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Springer  
Regional Superintendent of Schools, Christian-Montgomery Counties  
#1 Courthouse Square, Room 202  
Hillsboro, IL 62049

Christian County Office  
County Courthouse  
101 South Main St.  
Taylorville, IL 62568  
Phone: (217) 824-4730  
Fax: (217) 824-2464

Website: [www.montgomery.k12.il.us](http://www.montgomery.k12.il.us)

Montgomery County Office  
#1 Courthouse Square  
Room 202  
Hillsboro, IL 62049  
Phone: (217) 532-9591  
Fax: (217) 532-9623



# Ramsey Community Unit Schools

DISTRICT No. 204 • 716 WEST SIXTH STREET • RAMSEY, ILLINOIS 62080

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[www.ramsey.fayette.k12.il.us](http://www.ramsey.fayette.k12.il.us)

BARBARA SHUTE  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
PHONE: 618-423-2335  
FAX: 618-423-2314

NICK CASEY  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
618-423-2333

MELISSA RITTER  
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL  
618-423-2810

RHS FAX: 618-423-1275

RGS FAX: 618-423-9024

March 4, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

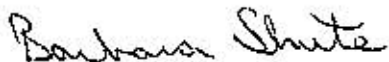
Dear Sir,

I would like to express support for the broadband stimulus grant application. Ramsey School District 204 would benefit from this grant. We would be able to receive more media information and updated technology. Ramsey is a rural community, mostly agriculture. The families and students of Ramsey would benefit from the available access this would provide.

Ramsey School District offers opportunities for parents and students to access school records, curriculum, and bulletin information via the Internet on the school district website. Several families are without a connection due to their rural location. Parents have expressed an interest in accessing the programs we offer on our website and would purchase a connection if it were available.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618 423 2335.

Sincerely,



Barbara Shute, Superintendent



# PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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Barbara Schlotter, Mark Stigel  
Jeffrey Austman, Jason Dotterer

605 North Seventh Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Dr. John C. Capasso, Superintendent  
Telephone (815) 692-2504  
Fax (815) 692-3195

**Prairie Central Junior High School**  
800 N. Wood Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Tonya Dieken, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-8660  
Fax (815) 657-8677

**Prairie Central High School**  
411 N. Seventh Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Daniel Casillas, Principal  
Telephone (815) 692-2355  
Fax (815) 692-2438

March 17, 2010

**Upper Elementary School**  
312 North Center Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Paula Crane, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-8238  
Fax (815) 657-8821

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

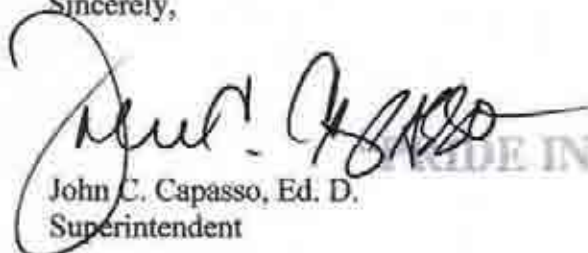
Prairie Central Community Unit School District #8 includes 7 small, rural communities with 5 elementary schools, 1 junior high school, and 1 high school. The District currently employs about 325 people and has a current student enrollment of 2,181 students. Geographically, the District is located in the central part of Illinois, consisting of an area of approximately 28 miles from West to East and 14 miles from North to South, encompassing 386 square miles.

Currently, Prairie Central is in a contractual agreement with a commercial internet service provider for our internet access. Since we are located in a rural area, the cost of this access is relatively expensive. This cost, in addition to the current economic climate in Illinois and its affect on school budgets, does not appear to be sustainable. And, at the same time, trying to meet the need for increased bandwidth continues to be a challenge, both financially and technologically.

With our support of the Illinois Century Network grant proposal, we are encouraged by the opportunity to not only be able to meet the educational needs of our students, but also to support the availability of broadband internet access to the many families residing in our District, and to the governmental agencies, small businesses, and libraries.

We support the Illinois Century Network in its proposal to bring high-speed access to the underserved area that includes Prairie Central CUSD #8.

Sincerely,



John C. Capasso, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

**Chatsworth Elementary School**  
407 South Fourth Street  
Chatsworth, Illinois 60921  
Karen Hazelrigg, Principal  
Telephone (815) 635-3555  
Fax (815) 635-3429

**Meadowbrook Elementary School**  
450 North Bach Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Karen Hazelrigg, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-8461  
Fax (815) 657-8535

**Westview Elementary School**  
600 South First Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Patricia Boyd, Principal  
Telephone (815) 692-2623  
Fax (815) 692-3725

**Chenoa Elementary School**  
700 South Division Street  
Chenoa, Illinois 61728  
Dori Groce, Principal  
Telephone (815) 945-2971  
Fax (815) 945-2068

# PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Patricia Habekorn, President  
Joe Koehn, Vice-President  
Ann Stedinger, Secretary  
Barbara Schaller, Mark Sagel  
Jeffrey Ausman, Jason Bolterer

605 North Seventh Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Dr. John C. Capasso, Superintendent  
Telephone (815) 692-2504  
Fax (815) 692-3196

Prairie Central Junior High School  
805 N. Wood Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Tonya Cleken, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-9860  
Fax (815) 657-8677

Prairie Central High School  
411 N. Seventh Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Daniel Castillo, Principal  
Telephone (815) 692-2356  
Fax (815) 692-2426

March 17, 2010

Upper Elementary School  
312 North Center Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Paula Crane, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-8238  
Fax (815) 657-8621

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir:

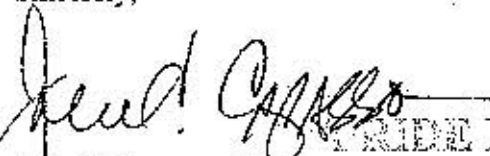
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With our support of the CIRBN grant proposal, we are encouraged by the opportunity to not only be able to meet the educational needs of our students, but also to support the availability of broadband internet access to the many families residing in our District, and to the governmental agencies, small businesses, and libraries.

We support the CIRBN and the Illinois Century Network in its proposal to bring high-speed access to the underserved area that includes Prairie Central CUSD #8.

Sincerely,

  
John C. Capasso, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

Charlton Elementary School  
407 South Fourth Street  
Chalsworth, Illinois 60921  
Karen Hazelrigg, Principal  
Telephone (815) 635-3555  
Fax (815) 635-3429

Meadowbrook Elementary School  
450 North Eighth Street  
Forrest, Illinois 61741  
Karen Hazelrigg, Principal  
Telephone (815) 657-8451  
Fax (815) 657-8535

Westview Elementary School  
600 South First Street  
Fairbury, Illinois 61739  
Patricia Boyd, Principal  
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Fax (815) 692-3726

Chenca Elementary School  
700 South Division Street  
Chenca, Illinois 61726  
Dan Groce, Principal  
Telephone (815) 945-2971  
Fax (815) 945-2059