



March 11, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

BendBroadband is pleased to collaborate with Crook County government to establish the Crook County Computer and Education Center. Broadband access will create pathways for residents of Crook County to connect with an abundance of business and educational opportunities that have previously be unavailable in this geographically isolated region.

BendBroadband of Central Oregon is applying for a BROADBAND USA BTOP Infrastructure fiber project that will bring equivalent middle-mile data capabilities to Central Oregon, as found in urban areas. To accomplish this endeavor, it has formed the Central Oregon Fiber Alliance (COFA), which includes key anchor tenants such as the proposed Crook County Computer and Education Center. This expansion will provide a 40 Gigabit regional backbone for carrier-grade, survivable, data transport for medical, educational, municipal and business customers between Madras, Prineville and LaPine.

With the largest regional fiber construction and maintenance team, Bend Broadband is the logical choice to build and maintain this regional fiber initiative. Bend Broadband brings decades of data transport experience to the region and are proud to be key partners in the region in creating the data transport foundation for the 21st century. It has the ability to bring capacity and pricing to rural business equivalent to the best services offered in metro America.

Bend Broadband is excited about the possibilities for the Crook County Computer and Education Center to serve rural Oregonians. It is eager to lend its support to the project. If you have further questions, I can be reached at (541) 388-5817. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Miller
Chief Technology Officer
BendBroadband
63090 Sherman Road
Bend, OR 97701
fmiller@bendbroadband.net



**University Outreach & Engagement
Extension Service Administration
Vice Provost and Director's Office**

Oregon State University, 101 Ballard Extension Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3606
T 541-737-2713 | F 541-737-4423 | <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/admin/>

March 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

“Outreach and Engagement” at Oregon State University is a critical portion of our Land-Grant mission—a university mission that expects us to connect and provide access to learning opportunities that make a difference. We strongly support the BTOP grant application for the Crook County Computer and Education Center in Prineville. In fact, we are contributing \$50,000 in cash plus many thousands of dollars in staff hours for planning, project management, programming, and evaluation activities to make this project a success. It will be a critical cog in our efforts to expand access to University knowledge in remote places—like Prineville—that have problems and needs that we can more easily address successfully with Broadband access.

Engagement at universities such as Oregon State means interaction with partners in ways we’ve not be able to develop in the past. It means we need to learn as much from our partners as they learn from us. Broadband access will greatly expand the ability of our partners in Prineville to interact with the knowledge base of our University, and allow us to learn more from them.

The Crook County Computer and Education Center is an effort that will bring a new world of technology-based educational interaction and learning into this isolated rural community to address its specific unique needs. These needs are easily evident with an unemployment rate of nearly 20 percent—the highest in the State and most of the nation. Education is one way to begin to address this issue, but it requires access to the learning opportunities and that requires a fully equipped facility with broadband access.

Whether they are part of the K-12 local education system, the Central Oregon Community College, or county government or businesses, the ability to access our knowledge base in a completely interactive fashion will dramatically enhance learning for what are essentially place-bound learners in this rural community. And the public computer center with broadband access that this proposal provides will enhance the University’s ability to better understand the needs of the community through higher quality interaction.

As noted, we strongly support the Crook County Computer and Education Center application. We can make a significant difference in this part of the state—a part hardest hit by the economic downturn and in great need of a boost to bring it back to vitality—but only if we can develop effective and viable educational and interactive access channels. And broadband access is the foundation for that effort.

Sincerely,

A. Scott Reed
Vice Provost, University Outreach & Engagement

Director, OSU Extension Service



Extension Service Crook County

Oregon State University, 498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, Oregon 97754

T 541-447-6228 | F 541-416-2115 | <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook/>

March 9, 2010

To whom it may concern:

Re: Partnership letter – Crook County Community Education and Computer Center

The OSU Crook County Extension Service and the Crook County Agricultural Extension Service District are proud to be partners in this endeavor. OSU Extension has been an educational partner with Crook County since 1914. Crook County Agricultural Extension Service District was formed in 1974 to provide financial support for the delivery of educational programs and the operational support for the Extension Service in Crook County.

The OSU Extension Service District will provide \$50,000 in cash to assist with construction of this facility. It has already contributed more than \$15,640 in staff time to the planning of this facility and will provide another \$15,000 in staff time as part of the ongoing management team that will identify, develop and deliver educational programs in this facility. The total of the Service District's in-kind contributions equal \$30,640.

The benefit of this facility is that it will fill a void identified through citizen needs assessments conducted in the spring of 2009. High unemployment rates in Crook County (over 20 percent through much of 2009) make it impossible for individuals to travel outside of the County to attend regional community colleges. Access to public commuter facilities in Prineville (the only incorporated town in Crook County) is limited to 27 old machines at the Crook County Library. Library hours are limited making access even more difficult.

OSU Crook County Extension is uniquely positioned to assist in the delivery of educational programs through this facility. As the Land Grant Institution of the State, OSU is the only University in Oregon with the organizational structure in place to bring a broad array of classes and programs to Crook County. OSU Extension also has a working relationship with Central Oregon Community College. This partnership makes our educational delivery system even stronger.

OSU Crook County Extension is happy to support this effort and is committed to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

Tim Deboodt

Tim Deboodt, Staff Chair
OSU Crook County Extension Service



**University Outreach & Engagement
Extension Service Administration
Vice Provost and Director's Office**

Oregon State University, 101 Ballard Extension Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3606
T 541-737-2713 | F 541-737-4423 | <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/admin/>

March 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

“Outreach and Engagement” at Oregon State University is a critical portion of our Land-Grant mission—a university mission that expects us to connect and provide access to learning opportunities that make a difference. I strongly support the BTOP grant application for the Crook County Computer and Education Center in Prineville. It will be a critical cog in our efforts to expand access to University knowledge in places—like Prineville—that have problems and needs that we can more easily address successfully with Broadband access.

Engagement at universities such as Oregon State means interaction with partners in ways we’ve not be able to develop in the past. It means we need to learn as much from our partners as they learn from us. Broadband access will greatly expand the ability of our partners in Prineville to interact with the knowledge base of our University, and allow us to learn more from them.

This project will bring the new world of technology-based educational interaction and learning into this rural community to address its specific unique needs. In Crook County, Oregon, the needs are easily evident with an unemployment rate that ranges between 17 and 20 percent, typically ranking as the top in the State. Education is one way to begin to address this issue, but it requires access to the learning opportunities and that requires broadband access.

Whether they are part of the K-12 local education system, the Central Oregon Community College, or county government or businesses, the ability to access our knowledge base in a completely interactive fashion will dramatically enhance learning for what are essentially place-bound learners in the rural community. And the broadband access that this proposal provides will enhance the University’s ability to better understand the needs of the community through higher quality interaction.

Oregon State University Outreach and Engagement and Extension Service are invested in building and sustaining the Crook County Computer and Education Center. We have selected this County to launch a statewide effort to bring higher education opportunities to rural Oregon with an annual contribution of \$212,000 to support staff, faculty, operations, and education offerings.

As noted, I strongly support this project. We can make a significant difference in this part of the state—a part hardest hit by the economic downturn and in great need of a boost to bring it back to vitality—but only if we can develop effective and viable educational and interactive access channels. Broadband access is the foundation for that effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Scott Reed".

A. Scott Reed
Vice Provost, University Outreach & Engagement
Director, OSU Extension Service



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services
Prineville Self Sufficiency/Volunteer Programs
Crook County/SDA 10
457 NE Ochoco Plaza Dr.
Prineville, Oregon 97754
541-447-3851
Fax: 541-416-0485
Toll Free: 1-800-213-0315

March 10, 2010

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Crook County Branch, I strongly support funding the **Crook County Computer and Education Center** in Prineville. This project is a high priority for the City of Prineville and Crook County, which have been designated as extremely distressed by the state of Oregon.



The impacts of the national economic recession have hit Crook County particularly hard. Our level of unemployment averages 20 percent contributing to our high rate of poverty. Historically, high unemployment and increased poverty escalate demand for human services as hunger, abuse, and homelessness increase. Crook County is experiencing these issues at an unprecedented rate.

The Crook County Computer and Education Center has been in development for two years. Strong partnership's locally among private and public sectors and with key stakeholders including Oregon State University, Central Oregon Community College and Oregon's Economic Development Council positions Crook County to succeed in reaching its goal to expand its economic base through workforce development.

Our branch of The Department of Human Services will realize great benefits and at the same time contribute resources to benefit the project's success. Access to broadband and technology equipment will afford opportunities for our staff and community partners to connect with other agency resources throughout the state and US. Due to severe budget cutbacks, we will be positioned to continue and advance our staff trainings and ability to share in decisions that impact our clientele and region. In turn, we will be able to connect our clientele with education services not previously available. It is estimated the in-kind support for this project will average \$9,200 annually.

The Crook County Community Computer and Education Center will be a distinct asset to Crook County, its people and its economy. I urge your full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Melinda Proffitt-Branch Manager
Department of Human Services- Prineville Branch
457 NE Ochoco Plaza Drive.
Prineville, Oregon 97754
541-447-3851 Ext. 309
Melinda.R.Proffitt@state.or.us

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"
An Equal Opportunity Employer





SHERIFF

C R O O K C O U N T Y

Sheriff Rodd Clark

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

March 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Crook County Sheriff's Office gives its full support to the proposed Broadband-USA Crook County Computer and Education Center project.

Rural law enforcement agencies such as ours have great difficulty accessing professional training courses because of the high costs involved in personnel hours and transportation, lodging, and accessing online training is very difficult because we do not have access to high speed internet connectivity.

The creation of the County Computer and Education Center, with its high speed internet and access to the latest online law enforcement educational programs, will provide critical training opportunities for our personnel, including improving our overall understanding and use of computer technology. Computer crimes are on the rise and we need to meet that demand. This kind of quality training would greatly enhance our abilities to provide 21st century investigative and enforcement services to our citizens. Having this center in our county will also significantly reduce the demands on our small training budget.

We sincerely hope you will fund the proposed Crook County Computer and Education Center.

Sincerely,

Commander Russ Wright
Crook County Sheriff's Office
Prineville, Oregon

"Conservators of the Peace"

308 NE 2nd St, Prineville, OR 97754

Phone: (541) 447-6398 | Fax: (541) 416-0353 | Website: <http://sheriff.co.crook.or.us/>

Prineville Police Department 400 NE 3rd Street Prineville,
OR 97754
(541) 447-4168 / (541) 447-8619 (fax)



March 12, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Prineville Police Department gives its full support to the proposed Broadband-USA Crook County Computer and Education Center project.

City police departments located in rural parts of Oregon have great difficulty accessing professional training courses because of the high costs involved in personnel hours and travel to areas where trainings are provided. Generally, trainings are offered at locations a minimum of four hours (one-way) away from Crook County. Accessing online/distant education and training is impossible because we do not have access to high speed internet connectivity.

The creation of the County Computer and Education Center, with its high speed internet and access to the latest online law enforcement educational programs and held in a site where law enforcement professionals from surround rural areas can attend, will provide critical training opportunities for our personnel, including improving their overall understanding and use of computer technology. Our staff needs this kind of quality training in order to provide 21st century investigative and enforcement services. Having this Center in our county will also significantly reduce the demands on our small training budget.

We sincerely hope you will fund the proposed Crook County Computer and Education Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Boyd", written in a cursive style.

Captain Boyd
Prineville Police Department



March 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Partnership To End Poverty, a non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, is pleased to write a letter of support for an application by Crook County for funding to support a higher education center in Prineville, Oregon.

The Partnership is dedicated to furthering system intervention in reducing poverty among residents of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties in Oregon. With 12 years of experience in this arena, it is our belief that lack of access to higher education is one of key elements which contributes to lingering poverty among residents of our region.

Statistics will support that contention, especially in Crook County where the American Community Survey, 2006-2008, found that 12.8 percent of the population 25 and older does not currently have a high school diploma. Only 15 percent of that same population has a bachelor's degree or better compared to 28 percent of the population of Oregon and 27.4 percent of the population of the United States overall. As one might expect given such statistics, the median household income of Crook County also lags at 93 percent of the state median and 87 percent of the national median. Individuals in poverty represent 12.5 percent of the population.

If Crook County, which currently has an unemployment rate of 16.8 percent, is to overcome the challenges posed by the current recession, it **must** retool its workforce for a modern economy. The engines of the old economy—wood products manufacturing, construction, natural resources and agriculture—are gone or diminishing fast. It is essential that the community find ways to reposition itself competitively within the global economy. The presence of higher education will do just that.

At present, the closest institution of higher education is 35 highway miles away in Bend, and the educational options for area residents are extremely limited, especially to citizens who do not have reliable transportation or access to childcare other than that provided by family and friends. In addition, the high percentage of first-generation college students represented within the Crook County population face cultural barriers to accessing college services, and all those barriers are magnified when the college itself is several towns over.

By investing in the proposed project, the Department of Commerce has the opportunity to address a significant workforce issues and to remake a community devastated by unemployment and a changing economy.

We strongly urge your support for the grant application submitted by Crook County and OSU Extension.

Sincerely,

Scott Cooper
Director of Policy

521 SW Sixth St.
Post Office Box 147
Redmond, OR 97756

(541) 923-9663 phone
(541) 504-1399 fax

www.partnershiptoendpoverty.org



March 10, 2010

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Crook County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), I am requesting full support for funding Crook County's application for the Department of Commerce BroadbandUSA Connecting American's Communities grant.

CHIP is a community-wide council creating strategies to improve overall health and answer issues facing health care services. It is about people becoming involved in health policy decisions. The health of the Crook County CHIP area residents will be significantly improved with people practicing healthy lifestyles and this will be possible with access to health resources on the Internet.

Crook County is located in a rural area of Oregon. Historically access to internet-connected computers, education, connection with health communities across the state and US, and availability to work with other communities to share resources has been extremely limited. The proposed Crook County Computer and Education Center with broadband connectivity will provide access to a broad array of resources not previously affordable to our community and its partnering health providers.

We identify three groups of people and businesses who will benefit by having the broader access including broadband and a community learning center:

- Health-care providers and educators – We are working to increase offerings for our health care professionals. An opportunity to engage in a continuum of learning not only advances skills and knowledge, but provides us new options to maximize limited expertise and resources.
- Community members – A wide cross section of the community is actively engaged in bettering their lifestyles. More emphasis is being placed on preventative efforts that better physical and emotional health.
- Students – We are invested in county wide efforts in workforce development. We have had successful programming efforts that introduce students to health care fields. The computer learning center will advance these efforts and offer new ties to Oregon Health Science University and other higher education resources.

We estimate that we will contribute approximately \$3,000 in advisory staff time to the planning & follow through of projects that will serve the workforce training needs of our organization. Through our CHIP partnerships, we are well positioned to connect the community on health care issues. The new opportunities this grant provides will maximize these efforts.

Sincerely,

Sharon S. Vail
CHIP Coordinator
Pioneer Memorial Hospital
1201 NE Elm St.
Prineville, OR 97754
541-447-6254, ext. 380



March 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Board Members

Mimi Graves
President

A.J. Losoya
Vice President

Keith Dodge
Treasurer

Lani Woodall
Secretary

Jeffrey Ludeman

Jaime Aguirre

Jeff Neal

Rolando Mendez

Frank Carrillo

Brad Porterfield
Executive Director

The Latino Community Association (LCA) would like to voice our support of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce by Crook County to fund the development of the Crook County Computer and Education Center in Prineville, Oregon. LCA works daily with Latino residents on issues that present challenges in their lives, and education is one of the most consistent challenges our clients face.

Prineville [Crook County] is a very rural community with little in the way of education infrastructure. Latino individuals and families, in particular, experience hardship accessing educational services and typically must drive 45 minutes to Central Oregon Community College in Bend to participate in classes. The digital divide is also very pronounced among Latinos, most neither having home computers nor knowing how to utilize computers offered in public places like the library.

We understand and are encouraged to know the vision for this project includes services for limited-English, Spanish-speaking individuals. The Center will focus on utilizing bi-lingual staff and/or have immediate access to a contract interpreter through an existing program of one of the project partners. The project will target limited-English-speaking Latinos by marketing the project in Spanish at places where Latinos gather, e.g., local churches. The programs will be culturally appropriate and English Language Learning (ELL) classes will be offered. Among the project's goals are those aimed at helping Latinos become fluent in English and to help them access in-demand high skill job training and education courses so that they can make better lives for themselves and their families.

LCA is committed to helping make this project successful by assisting with outreach to engage the Latino community and being available to consult the project organizers if called on to do so. Please contact us if you have any questions with regard to our support.

Sincerely,

Brad Porterfield
Executive Director

Tax ID #93-1260288

1130 NW Harriman
Bend, OR 97701

541.382.4366
info@latca.org
www.latca.org



Community Partner



Oregon Open Campus
Crook County
Oregon State University
498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, Oregon 97754
T 541.447.6228 | F 541.447.416.2115 | <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/admin/>

CROOK COUNTY EDUCATION COUNCIL
498 S. E. LYNN BOULEVARD
PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754
541.447.6228

March 5, 2010

To whom it may concern,

As Co-Chairs of Crook County Education Council and business leaders, we extend support for efforts by Crook County and its partners to obtain funding support through the BroadbandUSA Grant for a Public Computer and Education Center. As partners on this project, we have already invested over \$8,200 in in-kind contributions as time spent on the planning for this facility. We will be investing another \$5,000+ in in-kind time donations as advisory committee members during the project phase

Crook County government, business, school and community leaders have joined together with a shared investment in advancing access to technology and education for our workforce, K-12 students and community. Given our rural location and its limited access to broadband and traditional education resources, our community is taking leadership to optimize use of broadband as a means to connect with a wide range of education resources and seeking innovative ways to engage our existing and emerging place bound workforce in a continuum of education opportunities. Collectively, we believe this is our best investment for increasing our economic vitality and social capital.

The Crook Education Council which includes a wide cross-section of local and regional leaders is committed to forging new partnerships and leveraging resources to advance sustainable strategies that result in expanding education offerings locally. This is a strategy in light that Crook County holds Oregon's highest unemployment rate (well over 16%) and the state's unemployment ranks in the top three nationally. We believe it will be more difficult to adequately educate the existing and future workforce without infrastructure upgrades in technology.

Higher education is a top priority with Crook County Government, the region's Economic Development Strategic Plan, Oregon State University, Central Oregon Community College and the Crook County School District. On behalf of the Crook County Education Council, we strongly urge you to award this grant to Crook County to further the Oregon Open Campus project.

Sincerely,

Sally Goodman
Co-Chair

Gary Goodman
Co-Chair



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR CENTRAL OREGON

Prineville/Crook County

To whom it may concern,

As the manager of Prineville Economic Development, I'd like to extend my full support for Crook County and its partners to obtain funding through the BroadbandUSA Grant. This grant will help fund the Computer and Education Center project—a project of highest importance to economic future of this rural Oregon county.

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) is committed to creating new jobs, investing in our local business community, leveraging support and resources for workforce development, and advocating for higher education. Given the global demands for technology, we believe it's imperative that this community have access to a sufficient infrastructure of IT and fiber bandwidth for educational pursuits and workforce training.

Currently, Crook County has very little public internet access or access to a broad range of higher educational opportunities for high school students and adults. We believe this project will fill that void, and play a major role in reducing our county's current unemployment rate of 15.9%. EDCO believes it will be more difficult to adequately educate the existing and future workforce without infrastructure upgrades in technology.

Higher education is a top priority in EDCO's strategic plan, and our efforts to diversify the Central Oregon economy. This is why I spend nearly 20 hours per month serving on the Computer & Education Center Committee (and related subcommittees), taking part in roundtable discussions, writing letters of support, and formulating potential educational programs for this project.

I strongly urge you to award this grant to Crook County. The benefits of public access to high speed internet technology and online education goes hand-in-hand with EDCO's efforts to create wealth and opportunity for local citizens.

Warm Regards,

Jason Carr
Manager, Prineville Economic Development



CROOK COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES
203 NE Court Street • Prineville, OR 97754
Phone: (541)447-5304 • Fax: (541)447-7505

March 11, 2010

To whom it may concern:

As the Veteran Services Officer for Crook County, I fully support Crook County's efforts to obtain funding through the BroadbandUSA Grant. This grant would help fund the Computer and Education Center project which is desperately needed in our rural community.

I was first involved with Oregon Open Campus as a student in the Leadership Crook County 2009 class offered by Central Oregon Community College in which some of the initial ground work took place. I spent at least 30 hours of my own time working with other members of this class to lay the ground work that helped to establish the Crook County Education Council. After graduating from this class, I have continued my commitment to see this project become a reality.

Since graduating from the Leadership class, I have invested over \$4,000 in in-kind contributions for time spent on the Crook County Education Council and a needs assessment sub-committee. I will continue to spend at least 15 hours per month working on this Council for the next three years.

Crook County has one of the largest populations of veterans around the State of Oregon many of whom are not able to return to jobs they had before being called to Active Duty. Being able to re-train them to enter into other job positions is paramount for that population of citizens to grow and thrive. Unfortunately, Crook County does not have a facility that can provide access to computer technology and on-demand access to the Internet.

The rural nature of our community severely limits access to computer technology and the Internet. This in turn, limits access to online educational opportunities as well as the ability to enhance job skills and training.

I strongly urge you to award this grant to Crook County. Access to computer technology and to high speed Internet capabilities is a keystone to helping others improve themselves on both a personal and professional level. This in turn will create many more opportunities for individuals in our community.

Respectfully

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

Angie Gilley
County Veteran Services Officer



Ivan Hernandez, Ph.D.
Superintendent

471 NE Ochoco Plaza Dr.
Prineville, OR 97754
Phone (541) 447-5664
Fax (541) 447-3645

March 10, 2010

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Crook County School District Board, I am pleased to partner with Crook County and its other key organizations in full support of securing a Department of Commerce "BroadbandUSA: Connecting America's Communities" grant to help fund the Crook County Computer and Education Center.

The Crook County School District is pledged to provide the best possible education for our students. It is our responsibility to assure all students graduate with the mindset and capabilities to be lifelong learners. To do so successfully, we are invested in providing opportunities that prepare them for secondary education. The Crook County Computer and Education Center project, in partnership with Central Oregon Community College, Oregon State University, and Oregon University System resources, is a front door to access and secure education needed for our students and workforce.

Crook County is located in a rural portion of Oregon. Oregon and Crook County have been hit hard in the economic downturn. The county has averaged a 20% unemployment rate and Oregon ranks between second and third in unemployment nationally. Additionally, 13% of the population 25 and older do not hold a high school diploma and only 15% of the same population has a bachelor's degree compared to 28% of Oregonians and 27.4% of the US population.

To combat the rate of unemployment, lack of education attainment, and a high poverty rate, Crook County is taking significant steps to build new economies. Success rests on generating a highly skilled and educated workforce. This Center, with its access to distant learning and community wide access to connectivity through broadband, is the critical resource to securing a positive economic future.

Crook County schools are working together with Crook County and its education partners to provide "seamless" education opportunities. We are leveraging additional dual-enrollment courses that will provide students access to college/university level learning and credits applicable toward college/university degree. This partnership provides not only education at an affordable price and in a timely manner; it opens the door for students to interface with higher education and to a broader global community. For rural students, the opportunity to attach with higher education plays a significant role in determining future engagement.

In summary, funding the BroadbandUSA Connecting America's Communities grant will serve as a significant investment in our people and our economic future.

The school district has invested over \$3,500 in personnel costs attending planning sessions for this project. We will continue in our advisory role with another investment of staff hours equaling approximately \$2,500 during the project period.

Sincerely,

Ivan Hernandez, Ph.D., Superintendent



175 NW Meadow Lakes Drive
Prineville, OR 97754
447-7978

To whom it may concern:

As the Library Director for the Crook County Library, I am writing to express this community's need to expand public access to computer technology and to expand bandwidth and IT connectivity as part of that effort.

Currently, the Crook County Library is the only venue for public access computing in Crook County. This one location with its 27 aging and often broken computers is trying to support the public computing needs of a population of 25,000 spread over 3,000 square miles. Over the last five years, public access computing at the Crook County Library has increased 33%. As this community's gateway to information resources, the library seeks to connect the community to the information support needed for education, employee training, and workforce development. With our current resources, it is an impossible task.

This community desperately needs a public computer center that is connected to a community college that offers quality job training programs and a university that offers 4-year and graduate degrees. The Crook County Computer and Education Center will be such a center. Through it the residents of this community will have access to computer technology day and night, and be able to access first-rate job training programs. They will finally be able to earn their college degrees and make a decent life for themselves and their families.

Our tiny library budget does not allow us to make a cash donation toward this project. However, we have already spent well over \$1,000 in staff hours as an in-kind contribution toward the planning of the Center.

I urge you to fund Crook County's Computer and Education Center project and the effort to expand bandwidth and IT connectivity in this community.

Respectfully,

David R Patterson

David R. Patterson
Library Director

March 9, 2010



CROOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



March 10, 2010

Department of Commerce BroadBand USA
Connecting America's Communities Grant

RE: Crook County Computer and Education Center Application

To Whom It May Concern,

The Crook County Commission on Children and Families is submitting this letter of support for the Crook County Computer and Education Center Application for the Department of Commerce BroadBand USA Grant.

By legislative design, the Commission on Children and Families is responsible for the development of a comprehensive plan for Children and Families in each County in Oregon. The Commission works with government agencies, businesses, non-profit and faith-based groups, youth, parents and community members to establish priorities for services and resource development. The Commission has been an active partner in planning the Computer and Education project as a priority for our community.

With a record high 21% unemployment rate and 70% of school-aged children utilizing free and reduced meals it is clear that we must diversify and strengthen our economy and employment options. In addition, 25.7% of our 18-24 year olds report not completing even a high school degree or equivalent and only 59.7% of that same age group report completing high school. The Center will provide computer and high-speed internet access, along with learning and training opportunities to strengthen the current and emerging workforce and match that workforce to the needs of existing and future employers for our area. With the economic status of the community, the addition of interactive learning opportunities and access to training and higher education options locally will be key to changing the face of the current workforce and future business opportunities for our area. As a rural community striving to improve our infrastructure to address these needs, the opportunity provided by the Connecting America's Communities Broadband grant is crucial to providing access to expanded learning opportunities.

We will be donating approximately \$1,000 of in-kind hours in an advisory capacity during the project period (and after). We strongly urge your consideration for this proposal as a way to build social capital for current and future generations in our rural community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Comini,
Director

committed to a healthy
and safe environment for
children and families

203 NE Court St, Prineville, OR 97754 (541) 447-3260 Fax (541) 416-0637



City of Prineville

387 NE THIRD STREET ♦ PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

Phone: (541)447-2356

FAX: (541) 447-5628

EMAIL: sforrester@cityofprineville.com

Web Site: www.cityofprineville.com

March 9, 2010

To whom it may concern;

As manager for the City of Prineville and a citizen, I fully support the efforts of Oregon State University applying for the "Broadband USA – Connecting America's Communities" grant.

Our community has had to diversify our employment base from the lumber and tire industry that provided many labor jobs. With new types of employment opportunities coming to our community, comes the need for our community to learn a new set of skills and knowledge. These necessary skills and knowledge need to be provided through our educational system in order to be considered for employment, without being forced to leave the area to obtain it.

This grant money could contribute significantly in closing the gap in providing and expanding educational opportunities to more youth and adults within our region. This would allow them a better chance of success and marketability for the types of jobs that will become available in our community. It will aid our community in becoming more adaptable to the changing employment conditions by increasing our technology and education options.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Forrester", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Steve Forrester
City Manager



WORKSOURCE

CENTRAL OREGON

March 11, 2010

To: U.S. Department of Commerce

Re: Letter of Support – Crook County Computer and Education Center

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Central Oregon Workforce Coordinating Council, I would like to state our support for the Crook County Computer and Education Center project. Our members recognize the importance of developing a computer and education facility within Crook County, which is one of the most distressed counties in the state. We will be serving on the advisory board and contributing at least \$5,000 in in-kind personnel costs to this project.

The Workforce Coordinating Council has been working to improve high speed internet access, education and training programs and opportunities within Central Oregon for several years. With significant distances between communities in Central Oregon, it is difficult for Crook County residents to drive to the campus of Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University in Bend to access training programs (a 75 mile round trip). The proposed project will create education and training opportunities within Prineville, which is a critical workforce development need for the region.

The Workforce Coordinating Council is a 10-member regional board composed of public and private sector representatives that works to identify priority workforce development needs; to align resources, strategies, and programs to create tailored solutions to the workforce challenges facing business and industry; and to sustain a high quality workforce development system within Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Wendy Schechter

Wendy Schechter, PhD, Chair
Central Oregon Workforce Coordinating Council



CENTRAL OREGON
community college

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION
Telephone 541.383.7210
Fax 541.317.3065

March 10, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of Central Oregon Community College, we submit this letter of support for the BTOP grant application for the Oregon Open Campus Center in Prineville, Oregon. In 2009 Oregon had the highest unemployment rate in the nation with Crook County posting the worst unemployment rate among the state's metro areas. It is this economic climate that makes development of a Prineville campus more critical now than ever before.

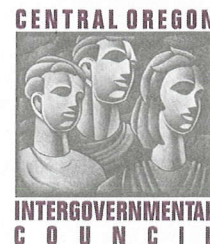
The goal of the Oregon Open Campus is to overcome place bound challenges by providing local access to learning that meets the needs of individuals, families, businesses and communities. This is accomplished by offering education locally using both distance technology and face-to-face learning.

The Open Campus is critical to educate and train a skilled workforce for the Prineville community to support existing businesses and attract new economic development to the area. This opportunity requires greater technology infrastructure with a need for higher internet speed and increased bandwidth.

Education changes lives and development of an educational campus in Prineville will provide the catalyst for change that offers an opportunity to so many and will ultimately revitalize the community. We strongly support the Crook County/Prineville Oregon Open Campus BTOP application.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. McCoy
Vice President for Administration
Central Oregon Community College



*Everywhere
Central Oregon
Works*

March 11, 2010

To: US Department of Commerce

Re: Support for Crook County Computer and Education Center Project

To Whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council I would like to express our support for the Crook County Computer and Education Center in Prineville. This project is a high priority for the City of Prineville and Crook County, which have been designated as extremely distressed by the state of Oregon.

The impacts of the national economic recession are particularly acute in Crook County, where levels of unemployment, job loss, and diminished business activity are among the highest in Oregon. The proposed project will address several long-term needs of the community, including access to higher education options and enhanced broadband access as a means to improve workforce skills and to further support the region's economic transition.

This is also an important project for our organization. COIC is the regional Council of Governments for Central Oregon, and we provide employment and training services, business loans, public transit, and economic and community development services. This project will enhance worker skills and improve the economy by strengthening businesses.

A COIC representative serves on the Advisory Committee and the Education Committee for the project, for the purpose of representing WorkSource Oregon and how we serve customers, results from job seeker skills assessment, and to articulate the need for higher education presence in Crook County. To further support this project, COIC pledges the following in-kind contributions:

- Continued participation on the Advisory and Education Committees – approximately \$3,100 per year
- Periodic meeting space at WorkSource Prineville – approximate value of \$250 per year

The Crook County Computer and Education Center project would be an excellent fit for the Department of Commerce - BroadbandUSA Connecting Americas Communities grant program, and I urge your full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Moore
Executive Director



March 10, 2010

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Prineville Crook County Chamber of Commerce, I strongly urge you to support the **Crook County Computer and Education Center** in Prineville, Oregon. This Center is a significant investment in reaching our county-wide goal of increasing the county's economic vitality with the major strategy focus to broaden the scope of our workforce. Collectively, the Chamber and its members are seeking new and innovative ways to be actively engaged in the global economy. The Center with its projected broadband capacity affords our rural area to be in the global market place.

Crook County is strategically identifying new ways to diversify its economic position. While timber and agriculture have been a mainstay, we are seeking new economic opportunities. The recent location of the Facebook Data Center in Crook County is an example. We continue to seek manufacturing and other businesses that can take advantage of the land and rural quality of life available.

The Center is an important asset for our organization and our community. Broadband access will provide avenues for us to connect with a broad array of businesses and opportunities while accessing education offerings not previously available to our place bound workers and residents. This access will allow Crook County to connect with other communities where travel budgets have been reduced and reduce our carbon footprint. The Center will also serve as a place for the community to connect with each other. Currently, we have limited space to meet especially as our community grows.

The Chamber has and will continue to be an active partner with The Center. We participate in the Crook Education Council and two sub-committees. Additionally, we contribute regularly to assessments and decisions that impact the growth of the Center. These efforts average \$8,700 annually in in-kind contribution.

The Crook County Community Education and Computer Center is a critical element of our county's future success. I urge your full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Bill Gowen
CEO
Prineville Crook County Chamber of Commerce