

DIAGRAM A

Backbone Map

Points of connection with backbone service providers:

- Interconnection points with telecom partners, broadband carriers as well as other interested parties are identified in Diagram B by any icon (POP, ILA, etc.)

Proposed Aggregation Node facilities:

- For Fiber Services, any location identified by any icon in Diagram B can be used as a 'egress point.'
- For Lambda and Data Services, any point identified as a POP (★) in Diagram B can also be used as an 'egress point' as well as an Interconnection point to or between broadband and backbone networks,
- Internet Service Providers(s) and other services (telcos, high bandwidth concentration points) are identified in Diagram B, specifically as 'CO/Peers'

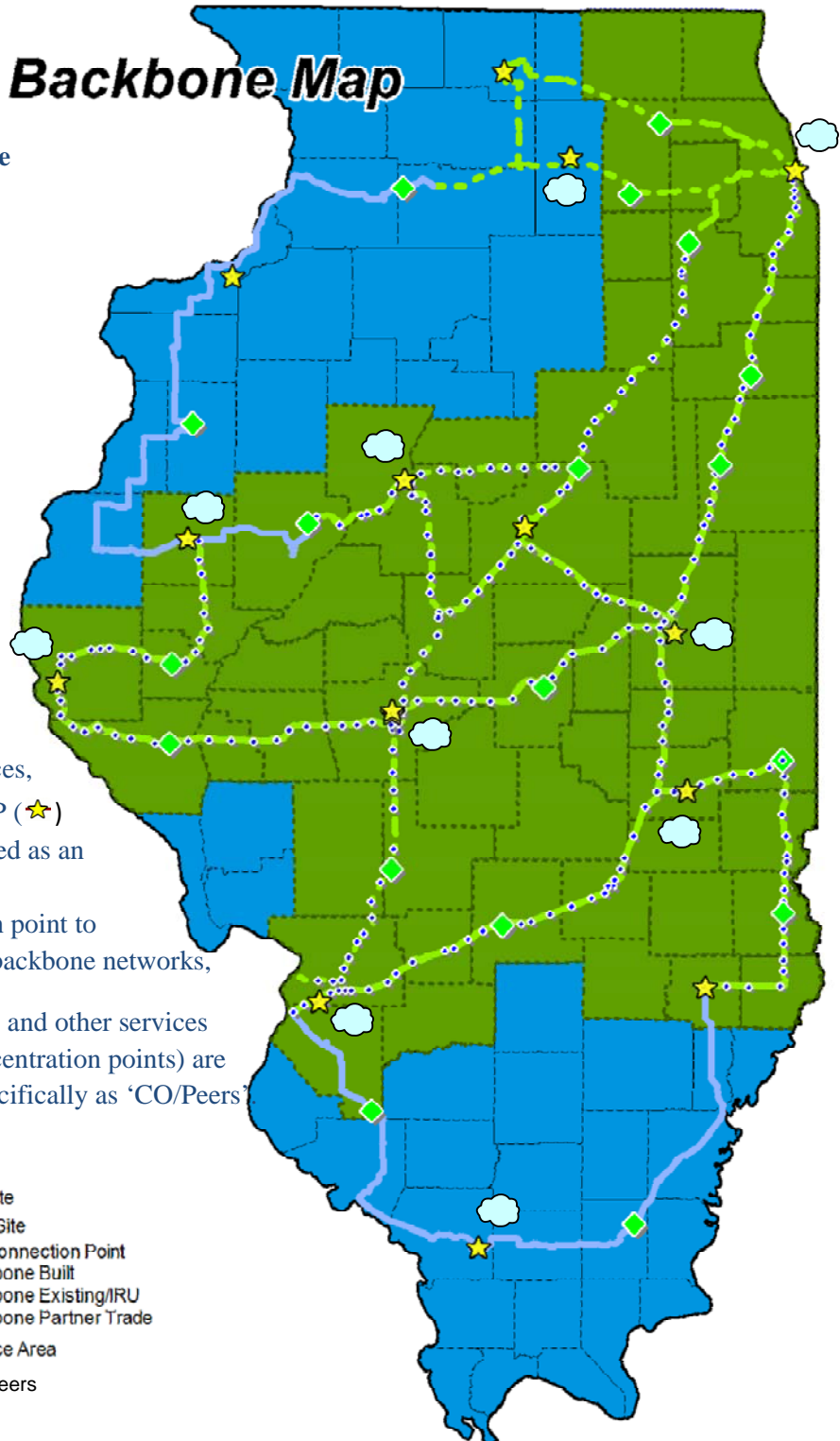
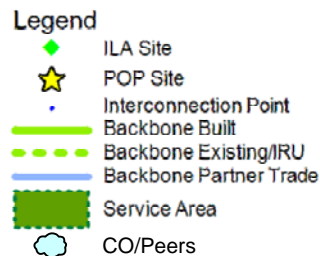
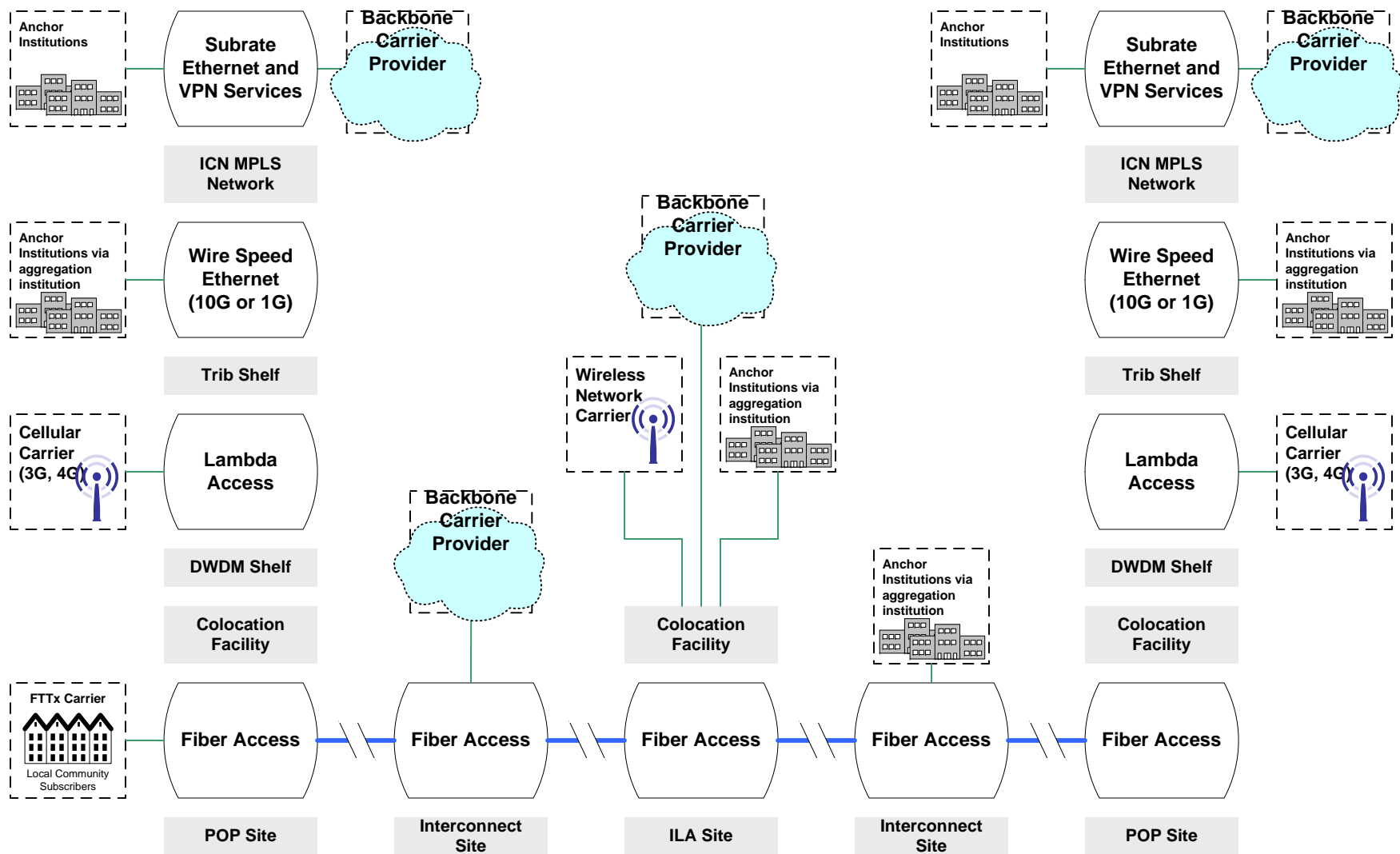


Diagram B



The above boxes represent only a handful of the types of purposes, institutions and business that can connect, as an example. Any site can, at their choosing, connect in any method.

DIAGRAM C

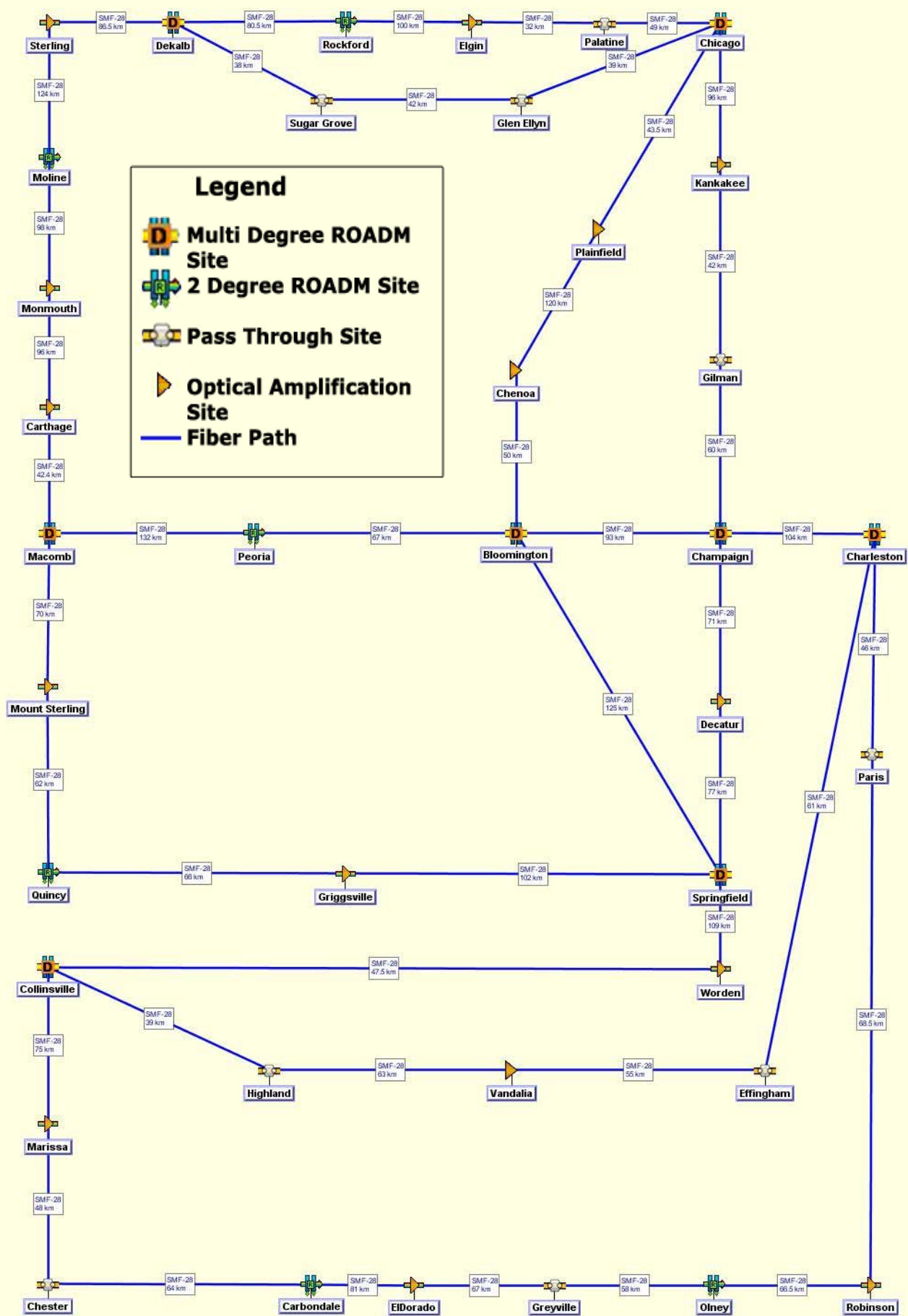


DIAGRAM D

CIRBN Network Diagram – Wireless System

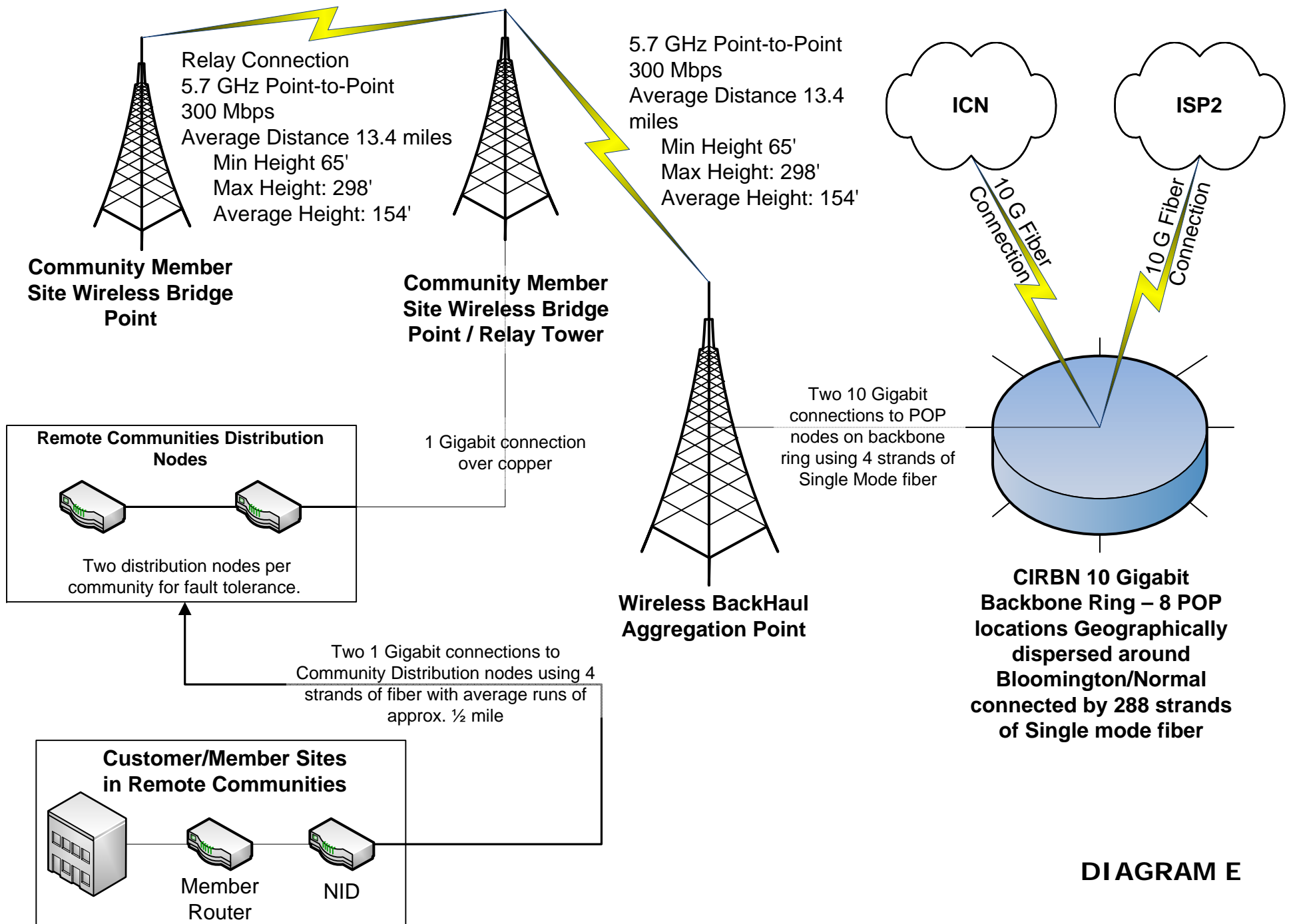


DIAGRAM E

CIRBN Network Diagram – Wireline System

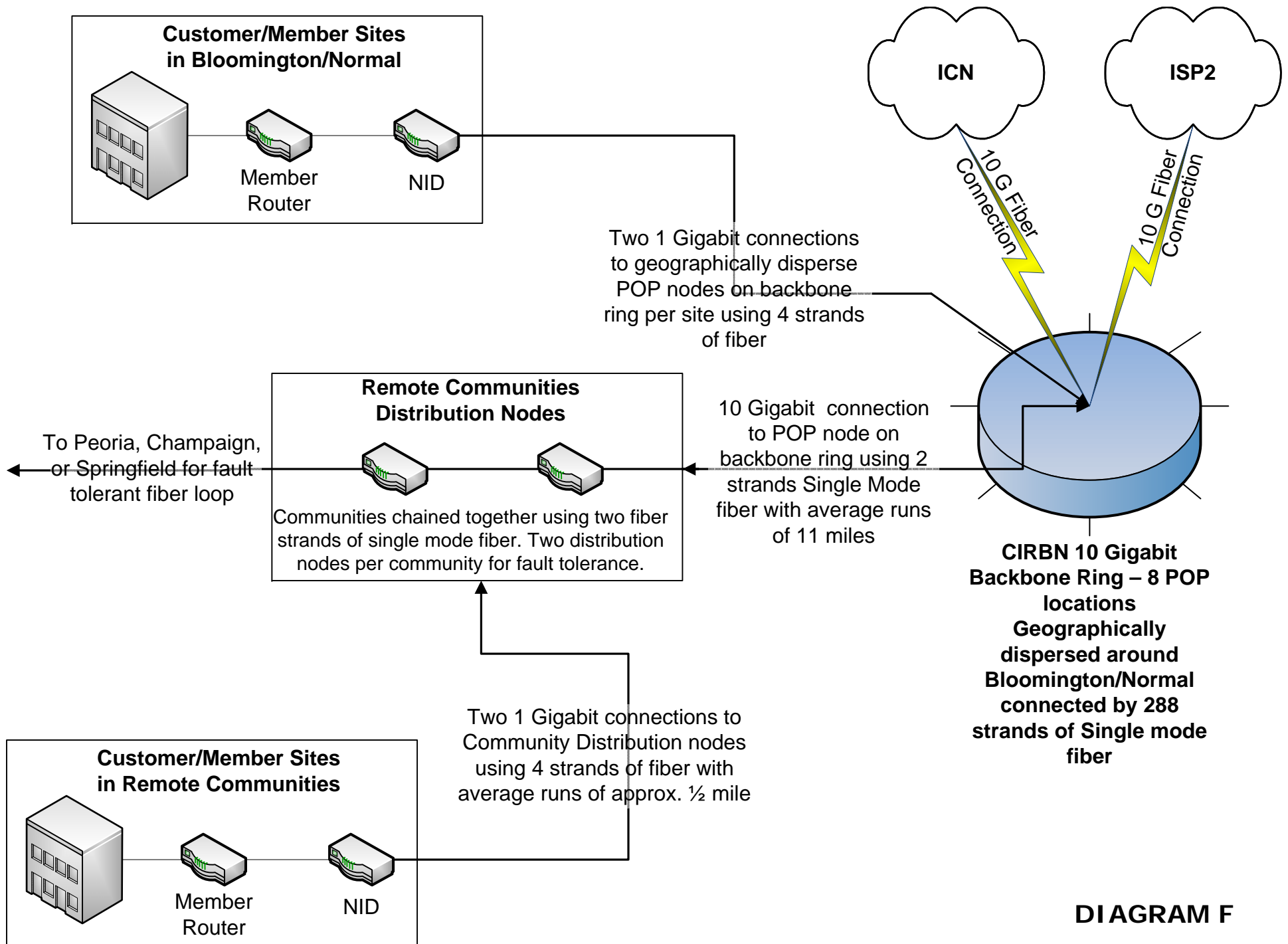


DIAGRAM F

Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Region

**Application to the US Department of Commerce's National
Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Recovery
Act Broadband Opportunities Grant Program**

**Letters of support from Anchor Institutions and
Third Party Providers**

Letters of Support from Anchor Institutions

Community Colleges

Community College	Carl Sandburg College	Galesburg
Community College	City Colleges of Chicago	Chicago
Community College	College of DuPage	Glen Ellyn
Community College	College of Lake County	Grayslake
Community College	Danville Area Community College	Danville
Community College	Elgin Community College	Elgin
Community College	Eureka College	Eureka
Community College	Frontier Community College	Fairfield
Community College	Greenville College	Greenville
Community College	Harper College	Palatine
Community College	Harry S Truman College	Chicago
Community College	Heartland Community College	Normal
Community College	Heartland Community College	Normal
Community College	Heartland Community College	Normal
Community College	Highland Community College	Freeport
Community College	Illinois Central College	East Peoria
Community College	Illinois Eastern Community Colleges	Olney
Community College	Illinois Valley Community College	Oglesby
Community College	John A. Logan College	Carterville
Community College	John Wood Community College	Quincy
Community College	Joliet Junior College	Joliet
Community College	Kaskaskia College	Centralia
Community College	Kishwaukee College	Malta
Community College	Lake Land College	Mattoon
Community College	Lewis & Clark Community College	Godfrey
Community College	Lincoln College	Normal
Community College	Lincoln Land Community College	Springfield
Community College	Lincoln Trail College	Robinson
Community College	McHenry County College	Crystal Lake
Community College	Moraine Valley Community College	Palos Hills
Community College	Oakton Community College	Des Plaines
Community College	Olney Central College	Olney
Community College	Parkland College	Champaign
Community College	Prairie State College	Chicago Heights
Community College	Rend Lake College	Ina
Community College	Richland Community College	Decatur
Community College	Rock Valley College	Rockford

Community College	Sauk Valley Community College	Dixon
Community College	Sauk Valley Community College	Dixon
Community College	Shawnee Community College	Ullin
Community College	South Suburban College	South Holland
Community College	Southeastern Illinois College	Harrisburg
Community College	Southwestern Illinois College	Belleville
Community College	Triton College	River Grove
Community College	Wabash Valley College	Mt. Carmel
Community College	Waubonsee Community College	Aurora

State and Local Government

Government	City of Atlanta	Atlanta
Government	City of Bloomington	Bloomington
Government	City of Champaign	Champaign
Government	City of Lexington	Lexington
Government	City of Pontiac	Pontiac
Government	Coles County Sheriff's Department	Charleston
Government	Green County Health Department	Carrollton
Government	Illinois Board of Higher Education	Springfield
Government	Illinois Community College Board	Springfield
Government	Illinois Office of the Secretary of State	Springfield
Government	Illinois State Board of Education	Springfield
Government	Illinois State Museum	Springfield
Government	Jackson County Health Department	Murphysboro
Government	Madison County Government Employment and Training Department	Wood River
Government	McLean County Board	Bloomington
Government	Quincy Adams County 911	Quincy
Government	Sangamon County Information Systems Department	Sangamon
Government	Town of Normal	Normal
Government	Village of Arrowsmith	Arrowsmith
Government	Village of Gridley	Gridley
Government	Village of Hudson	Hudson

Healthcare

Healthcare	Chestnut Health Systems	Bloomington
Healthcare	Community Health & Emergency Services, Inc.	Carbondale
Healthcare	Crawford Memorial Hospital	Robinson
Healthcare	Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services	Gibson City
Healthcare	Illinois Rural Health Net	DeKalb
Healthcare	Institute for Psychoanalysis	Chicago
Healthcare	Marshall Browning Hospital	Du Quoin
Healthcare	Pickneyville Community Hospital	Pickneyville

Higher Education

Higher Ed	Illinois Institute of Technology	Chicago
Higher Ed	Illinois State University	Normal
Higher Ed	International Center for Advanced Internet Research	Evanston
Higher Ed	Millikin University	Decatur
Higher Ed	Northern Illinois University	DeKalb
Higher Ed	Northern Illinois University	DeKalb
Higher Ed	Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market	Herrin
Higher Ed	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Carbondale
Higher Ed	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Edwardsville
Higher Ed	Southern Illinois University-C / IOES	Carbondale
Higher Ed	University Center of Lake County	Grayslake
Higher Ed	University of Illinois	Urbana
Higher Ed	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago

K-12 Schools

K-12	Abingdon Community Unit School District #217	Abingdon
K-12	Belleville Township High School District #201	Belleville
K-12	Blue Ridge Community Unit School District #18	Farmer City
K-12	Bond County Community Unit School District #2	Greenville
K-12	Bunker Hill Community Unit School District #8	Bunker Hill
K-12	Cahokia Unit School District #187	Cahokia
K-12	Cairo School District #1	Cairo
K-12	Chrisman Jr./Sr. High Schools	Chrisman
K-12	Community High School District #218	Oak Lawn
K-12	Consolidated School District 158	Algonquin
K-12	Crete-Monee School District #201-U	Crete
K-12	Decatur Public Schools	Decatur
K-12	DeKalb Community Unit School District #428	DeKalb
K-12	Des Plaines School District 62	Des Plaines
K-12	Downers Grove Grade School District #58	Downers Grove
K-12	Glenbard Township High School District 87	Glen Ellyn
K-12	Granite City Community Unit School District #9	Granite City
K-12	Hampton School District #29	Hampton
K-12	Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3	Harrisburg
K-12	Highland Community Unit School District #5	Highland
K-12	Kaneland Community School District #302	Maple Park
K-12	Lake Zurich Community Unit School District #95	Lake Zurich
K-12	LeRoy CUSD 2	LeRoy
K-12	Mattoon Community School District #2	Mattoon
K-12	McHenry Community High School	McHenry

K-12	McLean County Unit District No. 5	Normal
K-12	Mt. Zion School District #3	Mt. Zion
K-12	Mulberry Grove Community Unit School District #1	Mulberry Grove
K-12	Murphysboro Community Unit School District #186	Murphysboro
K-12	Pana Community Unit School District #8	Pana
K-12	Ponitac Community Consolidated School District #429	Pontiac
K-12	Prairie Central Community Unit School District #8	Fairbury
K-12	Prairie Central Community Unit School District #8	Fairbury
K-12	Ramsey Community Unit School District #204	Ramsey
K-12	Regional Office of Education - Christian-Montgomery Counties	Hillsboro
K-12	Regional Office of Education - Monroe-Randolph Counties	Waterloo
K-12	Regional Office of Education 25 Hamilton Jefferson	Mt. Vernon
K-12	Regional Office of Education- Whiteside	Sterling
K-12	River Grove School District #85.5	River Grove
K-12	Shiloh Community School District #1	Hume
K-12	St. Damian School	Oak Forest
K-12	St. Joseph School	Olney
K-12	St. Jude	New Lenox
K-12	Tamaroa Public School District #5	Tamaroa
K-12	Trico Community Unit School District #176	Campbell Hill
K-12	United JR/SR High School	Monmouth
K-12	Unity Point School District #140	Carbondale
K-12	Valley View Public Schools	Romeoville
K-12	Vandalia Community Schools Unit District #203	Vandalia
K-12	Winnebago Community Unit School District 323	Winnebago
K-12	Heyworth Community Unit School District #4	Heyworth
K-12	Holy Trinity Catholic Church	Bloomington
K-12	Olympia Community Unit School District #16	Stanford
K-12	Ponitac Community Consolidated School District #429	Pontiac
K-12	Pontiac Township High School	Pontiac
K-12	Regional Office of Education - DeWitt - Livingston - McLean	Normal

Legislature

Legislator	The Honorable Richard Durbin	Illinois
Legislator	The Honorable Bill Foster	District 14
Legislator	The Honorable Debbie Halvorson	District 11
Legislator	The Honorable Daniel Brady	Bloomington
Legislator	The Honorable Phil Hare	Moline

Libraries

Library	Barclay Public Library	Warrensburg
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Library	Centralia Regional Library District	Centralia
Library	Champaign Public Library	Champaign
Library	Chicago Ridge Public Library	Chicago Ridge
Library	City of Chicago Public Library	Chicago
Library	Colona District Public Library	Colona
Library	Des Plaines Public Library	Des Plaines
Library	Downers Grove Public Library	Downers Grove
Library	DuPage Library System	Dupage
Library	Eldorado Memorial Public Library District	Eldorado
		Elk Grove
Library	Elk Grove Village Public Library	Village
Library	Gail Borden Public Library District	Elgin
		Glendale
Library	Glenside Public Library District	Heights
Library	Herrin City Library	Herrin
Library	Hinsdale Public Library	Hinsdale
Library	Huntley Area Public Library District	Huntley
Library	Indian Prairie Public Library	Willowbrook
Library	La Grange Park Public Library	La Grange Park
Library	Lewis & Clark Library System	Edwardsville
Library	Lincoln Library	Springfield
Library	Metropolitan Library System	Burr Ridge
Library	Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District	Sauk Village
Library	New Lenox Public Library	New Lenox
Library	North Suburban Library District	Loves Park
Library	Oak Lawn Public Library	Oak Lawn
Library	Peoria Heights Public Library	Peoria Heights
Library	Rockford Public Library	Rockford
Library	Rolling Prairie Library System	Decatur
Library	Sallie Logan Public Library	Murphysboro
Library	Tremont District Library	Tremont
Library	Urbana Free Library, The	Urbana
Library	Warrenville Public Library District	Warrenville
Library	Wood Dale Library	Wood Dale

Other

Other	AFNI	Bloomington
Other	Apartment Mart	Bloomington
Other	Beck Area Career Center	Red Bud
Other	Cairo Women's Shelter, Inc.	Cairo
Other	Chicago Botanic Garden	Glencoe
Other	Chicago Volunteer Legal Services	Chicago
Other	DuPage Children's Museum	Naperville

Other	Education Services Network	Morris
Other	IESMA Communication Committee	Carlinville
Other	Illinois Municipal Utilities Association	Springfield
Other	Instituto Del Progreso Latino	Chicago
Other	Internet2	Ann Arbor, MI
Other	McLean County Chamber of Commerce	Bloomington
Other	SAMI	Bloomington
Other	Teleologic Learning Company	Atlanta

Last Mile 3rd Party Providers

Provider	Avenue Broadband Communications Inc	Vincennes, IN
Provider	Business Only Broadband	Westmont
Provider	Clearwave Communications	Harrisburg
Provider	Fox Valley Internet	Elgin
Provider	Intelligent Computing Solutions	DeKalb
Provider	NOW Wireless and Conxxus	Paxton
Provider	Volo Broadband	Champaign

Community Colleges



The mission of Carl Sandburg College is to provide accessible, quality education in a caring environment by keeping the human touch at the center of decision making and by seeking a partnership with the community of the College district.

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20730

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express our company's enthusiastic support for the Illinois Century Network (ICN) Broadband Stimulus Funds application for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding for the expansion the ICN backbone.

Our organization employs 435 individuals and is active in economic development in West Central Illinois. We believe that the ICN expansion will offer new opportunities to grow our business and create new jobs at a time of economic distress.

The current availability of broadband in West Central Illinois is critically important to our Institution. For the past 11 years, ICN has been an invaluable resource for our students and our communities. It is very important that the capacity and the coverage of ICN be expanded to meet current and future broadband demands.

We applaud the federal government's leadership in confronting this critical issue and we believe that ICN expansion if funded and replicated could transform our communities by providing access to rich, diverse and expanded educational opportunities. Through partnership with community college districts that cover every square inch in Illinois, the expansion of ICN will allow our students and residents access opportunities without having to leave their communities.

Beyond immediate opportunities for our College district, we are also excited by the opportunity for ICN to strengthen West Central Illinois Region's economic competitiveness through providing affordable advanced broadband services to the region's residents, institutions and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schmidt
President
Carl Sandburg College
2400 Tom L. Wilson Blvd.,
Galesburg, IL 61401
(309) 341-5214

Illinois Community College District #18

MAIN CAMPUS
2400 Tom L. Wilson Boulevard
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Phone: 309-344-2518
Fax: 309-344-1495

THE BRANCH CAMPUS
305 Sandburg Drive
Carthage, Illinois 62321
Phone: 317-387-3129
Fax: 317-387-2512

THE EXTENSION CENTER
380 East Main Street
Redbush, Illinois 61472
Phone: 309-772-2177
Fax: 309-772-2958

www.sandburg.edu



WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

618-262-8641 ext. 3383

Fax: 618-262-7541

fowlerm@iecc.edu

www.wabashvalley.cc

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:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant. As a community college in rural southeastern Illinois we experience the challenges of limited bandwidth at our institution every day. The proliferation of online content, online classes and the student's desire to seek information continually has inundated our capabilities. The Illinois Century Network's proposal would greatly help the flow of information to our students, faculty, staff and community members.

Wabash Valley College has had a working relationship with the Illinois Century Network for more than ten years. In that time, they have seen our bandwidth usage grow at a rapid rate. They have provided quality service to our institution and have developed a partnership that only grows stronger with time. Their broadband proposal would provide Wabash Valley College with needed bandwidth to expand our offerings and the mode by which content is delivered to students. Expanding the mode by which we offer content will allow us to teach to various learning styles on campus and at a distance. This will have a direct correlation on student learning, educational attainment and the economy of southeastern Illinois.

Our ability to effectively broaden the scope of technology at Wabash Valley College through this collaboration will be a key factor in determining children's attitudes toward education and research thus impacting generations to come. Wabash Valley College strongly supports this proposal and the opportunities it could bring. If I can be of further assistance in this endeavor please contact me at the number above or by email at fowlerm@iecc.edu.

Sincerely,

Matt Fowler

2200 COLLEGE DRIVE

MT. CARMEL, ILLINOIS 62863



March 8, 2010

Triton's current broadband services are supplied by a combination of AT&T and ICN. The College pays \$22,000 a year for 30Mbps of bandwidth. Our hope is that by partnering with ICN on their broadband project the College will realize substantial savings that can be put

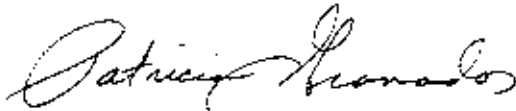
U.S. Department of Commerce
March 8, 2010
Page 2

toward other teaching and learning initiatives for the students and constituents within its district.

Triton College's district encompasses approximately 63 square miles, and the college serves approximately 331,000 people residing in 25 demographically and culturally diverse towns and villages. With the higher capacities that the new ICN broadband initiative will be able to offer, the College will be in a much better position to offer a broader range of services and information to its students and community.

If Triton College can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact our Associate Vice President of Information Systems, Terence Felton at 708-456-0300 ext. 3684 or by email at tfelton@triton.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Granados". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Patricia Granados, Ed. D.
President



SOUTHWESTERN
ILLINOIS COLLEGE

Office of the President

2500 Carlyle Avenue • Belleville, IL 62221-5899

866-942-SWIC (7942), ext. 5247 • 618-235-2700, ext. 5247 • Fax 618-277-0631

March 4, 2010

Assistant Secretary, Lawrence E. Strickling
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,

Simply put: Southwestern Illinois – the region – is at a telecommunications and educational crossroads; Southwestern Illinois College has long been ready to help; and the time is now!

Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) enthusiastically supports the State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant application. But, we need to be the Point of Presence location in Southern Illinois. SWIC is the largest Illinois community college south of the Chicago Metropolitan Area and has been a part of the Illinois Century Network (ICN) since its inception in 1999. ICN, the CMS broadband infrastructure, has graciously provided some internet access to Southern Illinois.

However, SWIC pays the second-highest Illinois community college fee for telecommunications; and there are underserved areas in the southern part of our district that only have limited dial-up access. It is critical that broadband be delivered regionally at the same affordable price that the Chicago Metropolitan Area enjoys. To that end, a group in southern Illinois, ConnectSI, has been working for several years to bring broadband to our area.

But the time for delivery is now considering:

- SWIC is the fiscal agent and a Regional Center for the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN), which will increase bandwidth needs.
- Regional communications volume has increased due to economy-driven enrollment growth and statewide partnerships.
- SWIC is seeking a grant with the University of Illinois to deliver computing access to our underserved area around and south of East St. Louis.
- Currently, SWIC uses ICN for Internet Services and pays a penalty for bandwidth above its ICN allocation.

- Our community college district crosses two LATAs and leases data trunks from AT&T and Harrisonville Telephone Company (HTC), our local service providers, for the last mile.
- In the southern part of the SWIC district, telecommunications lines are limited to 1.5 Mb lines at a cost so high that the line is shared by the K-12 schools with our SWIC Red Bud college campus. If SWIC could provide access for K-12 schools at an affordable price, students would have an equal opportunity to access the Internet like students in the northern part of the state.

Due to delayed progress with ConnectSI, in January SWIC entered into an AT&T agreement to bring Opt-E-MAN to our campuses at an annual cost of \$150,702.60 for five 100 Mb telecommunication lines to service the multiple campuses. But costs remain high because SWIC is so far from the Collinsville Point of Presence (POP), reaffirming that SWIC needs to be an Internet POP: to deliver service equitably throughout the district; to provide access to underserved areas; to deliver distance learning courses; and to continue statewide and local partnerships.

Resulting high-priority community concerns include:

- Regional fire/police departments cannot access distance-learning courses due to bandwidth constraints and costs.
- Access for hospital internships and senior citizen centers are limited by bandwidth and cost.
- K-12 schools in the southern part of the SWIC district share a 1.5 Mb line which is maxed out and limits schools use of the Internet.

Should SWIC become an anchor institution and Internet POP, education can be expanded throughout our district with distance-learning classes; training would become available for our fire/police departments from their locations; hospital partnerships would be available via telecommunications; and broadband access for K-12 schools in the southern part of the SWIC district would be readily accessible.

To help us advance the State of Illinois application for broadband stimulus funding that will address underserved areas like Southwestern Illinois, please contact SWIC CIO Christine Leja at 618-641-5691 or Christine.Leja@swic.edu ... or please feel free to contact me directly at 618-222-5477 or Georgia.Costello@swic.edu.

The time is now... and SWIC is ready to "POP" with community-service pride, given the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Georgia Costello, Ph.D.
President

Southeastern Illinois College



Jonah Rice, Ph.D.
Interim President

March 4, 2010

Celebrating Excellence

Southeastern
Illinois
College
enhances
lifelong
learning
by providing
quality
accessible
educational
programs,
cultural
enrichment
opportunities,
and support
for economic
development.

Core values:

Fairness

Integrity

Compassion

Self-Esteem

Responsibility

Learning

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 write this letter in enthusiastic support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. I am excited about the impact funding of this grant initiative would have on the students served by Southeastern Illinois College.

The Southeastern Illinois College district resides in a rural area of Southern Illinois where jobs and opportunity are scarce and a quality education is paramount to securing successful employment. Many area residents and local businesses have dial-up Internet access as their only option. Additional broadband capabilities are critical for our communities to grow and prosper.

For more than a decade, Southeastern has relied on the Illinois Century Network (ICN) to provide Internet and distance learning services our students. The ICN is a first class organization and provides us with the stable network infrastructure needed to support our online educational environment.

Southeastern Illinois College has long been a recognized leader in providing online education to area residents. Online enrollments have been growing exponentially every year. However, the additional bandwidth needed to support this growing online environment has not kept pace with demand.

Based on cost estimates provided by the ICN, Southeastern will be able to expand our capabilities to meet the online needs of students for a fraction of the current cost. With tight state budgets for funding community college initiatives, this funding is critical for Southeastern to remain competitive in this global online environment and meet the educational needs of our students.

Previous attempts to partner with area Internet Services Providers to expand Internet broadband services to our college district have been unsuccessful. These projects have failed due to the capital dollars needed to put the network infrastructure in place. Our hope is these federal stimulus dollars will remove this barrier to meet the needs of our college district.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at: 618-252-4411 or jonah.rice@sie.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonah Rice".

Jonah Rice, Ph.D.

Interim President

Southeastern Illinois College



South Suburban College

15800 S. State St.
South Holland, IL
60473-1200
708/596-2000

Board of Trustees

Frank M. Zuccarelli,
Chairman

John A. Daly,
Vice-Chair

Anthony P. DeFilippo

Katie Jackson Booker

Jacqueline Martin

Terry R. Wells

Joseph Whittington, Jr.

George Dammer,
College President

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,

South Suburban College fully supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. South Suburban College is a community college institution of higher learning founded in 1927 as Thornton Junior College. The Illinois Community College Act of 1965 has created our Community College District 510 which includes High School Districts 205, 215, and 228.

South Suburban College provides high quality education and services to a large and diverse student base, including a significant number of minority, as well as low income students. Ninety percent (90%) of SSC students fall under the low income, first generation, disabled or low income and disabled criteria. In addition, over 75% of SSC students are on Financial Aid.

South Suburban College has been an aggregate connection point for local schools, libraries and municipalities since the beginning of our state funded broadband Internet program. We are one of the original institutions that helped design area four of the Illinois Century Network.

Currently our broadband Internet connections are maximized due to increases in enrollment and utilization of new technologies. At times we are experiencing significant latency issues when retrieving information from the web or when transmitting information out to our constituents. Additional bandwidth would allow us to provide more feature rich content to our students and the community as well as allowing us to transition services off of our current aging infrastructure; thereby saving money that is going to support inadequate wide area connections.

However we recognize that we cannot reach this goal alone. We need your help in providing the resources to ICN (Illinois Century Network) to provide the last mile transport to our community. We have made the investment of providing

www.southsuburbancollege.edu

broadband connectivity to each of our buildings, but our "bottle neck" is the access to our internet service provider (ICN). Although we are grateful for the current connectivity and good service the ICN provides to our district, it is insufficient. Four buildings, 16000 students and 760 staff members share 50 MB of Internet bandwidth. In a world where many homes have Internet connectivity of over 8MB, 50MB is clearly not adequate bandwidth to meet the needs of our learning community.

We have taken a look at different carriers such as WOW! (Wide Open West), but have not been successful in finding a provider that can give us the necessary bandwidth at a price that competes with the Illinois Century Network nor one that offers the same level of support or reliability. As a result of our inability to provision additional bandwidth we have been unable to supply enhanced services to our community and our students.

By increasing the bandwidth provided by ICN we will be able to offer more streaming content to our students and community, decrease or eliminate some phone circuits, setup disaster recovery sites with other institutions and increase Internet throughput to our labs and library. The additional bandwidth will also enhance content provided to our students and community from our new student records system slated to go live this December.

ICN's fiber initiative is a bold step forward in ensuring all people in Illinois have fast, reliable Internet available in schools, libraries and other educational facilities. This step is important in guaranteeing that Illinois remains on course to being a technological leader, not just across the state, but also, across the country.

If our College can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact our Director of Network Systems, John McCormack at 708-225-5894 or by email at jmccormack@ssc.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Dammer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Dammer
President

3-3-10

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,

Shawnee Community College is pleased to support the Illinois Century Network in its application for infrastructure development under the ARRA. As the only post-secondary educational institution located in deep southernmost Illinois, Shawnee is highly dependent upon reliable and cost effective broadband service. Our region holds three of the five poorest counties in the state, and has recently been declared a Federal Empowerment Zone due to economic distress.

Our physical location, coupled with our low population density, makes the business case for private ISP difficult at best. ICN has provisioned the College for more than 15 years and has proven to be a reliable service provider. With a large portion of our students being economically challenged (71% student aid eligible), the ability to provide on-line course content and instruction via the internet empowers individuals that otherwise would be place bound and unable to access education or job training.

Infrastructure developed under the ICN proposal would provide the necessary bandwidth and interconnectivity between our main Campus and Extension centers, to allow students to take full advantage of IP based instructional materials, Interactive video, as well as a host of other options through our virtual campus. We are pleased to support their efforts and would ask for your acceptance of their proposal.

Sincerely,



Tiffiney Ryan
Chief Financial Officer

March 1, 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 member of the Advanced Engineering Task Force of the Illinois Century Network, I represent community colleges. On behalf of this constituent group, I am writing this letter supporting the Illinois Century Network and its grant request to supply last mile connectivity to all main campus college sites. For as long as I have been a member of the task force we have been dealing with the cost of last mile connectivity and bandwidth especially as it relates to connectivity in the non-urban areas of the State. Representing community colleges in general but specifically Sauk Valley Community College, located in Dixon, Illinois, I know how difficult it is to get affordable bandwidth and connectivity.

Rural areas of Illinois have seen buyouts and the exodus of corporations. In addition they have experienced the closing of manufacturing facilities. When these facilities leave and the population in an area either declines or becomes underemployed, it becomes less cost effective for private companies to invest the capital necessary to create a strong broadband infrastructure. Without this access, it is very difficult for rural economic developers to attract 21st century companies; those companies that renew rural America. Local economies affect education in general and many of our K-12 schools report using science and other textbooks that are 10-12 years old. Therefore the only way students and faculty have access to current data is through the use of broadband technologies. It is critical for the students, the economy and society of the small rural communities to have access to high bandwidth applications available only through broadband technologies.

This grant to connect community colleges to the internet with low cost, high bandwidth connections has many benefits. It will not only benefit the education sector in terms of community colleges, colleges, K-12 institutions and hospitals but will allow for connectivity of local telco, cable companies and others to low cost network transport. In cooperation with these companies, we would hope to build out high bandwidth availability at a reasonable cost not only to businesses, organizations and municipalities but to local residences, those places where students of all ages spend most of their educational time. In addition to the benefits to the existing community, this infrastructure can be used as a recruitment tool for the local

economic development community. If I can be of further assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus money, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Pfeifer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent than the last name "Pfeifer".

Alan Pfeifer
Dean of Information Technology
Sauk Valley Community College
173 IL Rt 2
Dixon, IL 61021
Tel. 815.835.6218
Fax. 815.288.5958



March 1, 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,

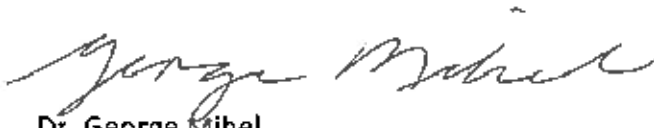
Sauk Valley Community College supports the Illinois Century Network and its grant request to supply last mile connectivity to all main campus college sites. The State of Illinois has continued to try to serve the broadband needs of its constituents through the creation of the Illinois Century Network (ICN) and Central Management Services (CMS). The infrastructure created and maintained by the ICN has been very beneficial to the State but has had its limitations especially in geographically and population challenged areas. Sauk Valley Community College, located in Dixon, Illinois is a community college residing in one of those areas. Over the last 15 years, the College has taken a role in assisting other organizations in the area with internet connectivity. Dixon Public Schools, a K-12 organization, has its internet connection through the College and at one time the public library had its connection through the College.

Internet connectivity is critical to all communities and due to the limited availability of transport in rural areas that connectivity is very expensive. Currently the College leases fiber to the least cost connect point on the Illinois Century Network. In rural areas there are no Opt-E-man services or other low cost high bandwidth connectivity options. The cost for Sauk's connection of 21M of bandwidth is currently \$4,750 per month. Sauk Valley and Dixon Public Schools (DPS) share this 21M of bandwidth. Although bandwidth needs for the College and DPS continue to increase they cannot be cost justified due to budget constraints. The increasing use of video in classes, interactive lessons, video conference classes as well as students' needs have put a great strain on our limited bandwidth.

The need for network delivered learning resources plus the administrative functions of offsite backup and redundancy are being impaired or not implemented due to the lack of network resources in terms of affordable bandwidth.

Sauk Valley Community College has the facilities to become an anchor institution for the district it serves as well as surrounding areas. There is currently space and backup power at the site. The connection and connectivity proposed in this grant would allow the colleges to become the communications focal point of the communities from which businesses, institutions and organization could receive affordable internet connectivity. Community colleges such as Sauk Valley serve a diverse population that includes not only adult and traditional age students but also special needs, economically disadvantaged, unemployed and community members. This grant would allow Sauk to enhance services supplied to the community. The reduction in the current \$4,750 month for connection to ICN could be used to expand educational opportunities and resources to the students and community. If I can be of further assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus money, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. George Mihel
President
Sauk Valley Community College
173 IL Rt 2
Dixon, IL 61021
Tel. 815.835.6300
Fax. 815.288.5958
Email: mihelg@svcc.edu

Rock Valley College

Office of the President
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114-5699
www.rockvalleycollege.edu

March 12, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling, 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 Mr. Strickling:

We are enthusiastic advocates of ICN's ARRA Broadband grant proposal and similar efforts to increase broadband access for education in general and higher education specifically. Rock Valley College in Rockford, IL has 36,000 students pass through its doors annually enrolling in credit, non-credit, and a host of programs like Traffic Safety and English as a Second Language. All of our remote campus sites must currently share our one current 20MB connection from ICN.

We currently pay commercial rates for connection to our other campuses that cost over \$77,000 annually for 1GB of throughput. An improved ICN infrastructure and other similar networks could bring down the price of Internet access to our students and faculty to more reasonable price levels, and an improved Internet connection will provide greater educational opportunities throughout our institution. We are currently overrunning the 20MB capacity provided by ICN.

We cannot find low cost Internet access to our other degree site, the Stenstrom Center for Career Education (SCCE) located at 4151 Samuelson Road, Rockford, Illinois, which is on the far south side of Rockford. There is no locally available major communications junction point for a number of miles, as the site is in a more rural area.

Higher capacities created by a new, bigger backbone for ICN would enable Rock Valley to offer more accessibility and greater access to research and resources.

If I or my CIO can be of any assistance in answering any questions or advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at my telephone number below.

Sincerely,



Jack Becherer, Ed.D.
President, Rock Valley College

JB:ak

Attachment

Jack J. Becherer, Ed.D.
FAX (815) 921-4004
PHONE (815) 921-4000
E-MAIL j.becherer@rockvalleycollege.edu

ATTACHMENT: Rock Valley College ICN Support Letter – March 12, 2010

These are the campus sites that must all currently share our current 20MB connection:

Rock Valley College - Main Campus

Stenstrom Center for Career Education

Main Street Campus

Falcon Road Aviation Center

Bell School Road Center

Eiger Lab

Truck Driver Training facility (North Main)

We have contacted our local ICN RTC with the above sites and their geographic locations and are working with the City of Rockford (Glenn Trommels-City of Rockford CIO), Winnebago County (Gus Gentner-CIO) and other municipal organizations for mutually beneficial Internet fiber connections in the immediate area. We have also discussed linking with Northern Illinois University (NIU) and the local fiber consortium they have spearheaded in recent years. Rock Valley College has short throws of strategically located dark fiber that we would gladly contribute to this effort.

We are hopeful that the ARRA Broadband Grant funding will see further light of day and the 48 community colleges will continue to receive the benefits of the ICN partnership.

RVC Contact Information

Jack J. Becherer, President
3301 N. Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114-5699
(815) 921-4003
j.becherer@rockvalleycollege.edu

Antonio Herrera, CIO
3301 N. Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114-5699
(815) 921-4802
a.herrera@rockvalleycollege.edu

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 an academic institution which currently acts as a Community Network (local Point-of-Presence) provider for organizations that connect to the Illinois Century Network, Richland Community College wholeheartedly supports the broadband stimulus grant application being tendered by the State of Illinois. Including its own campus, Richland currently connects 18 other facilities to the ICN. By doing so, we are able to save an estimated \$200,000 annually which would otherwise be spent on telecommunications line charges. Our decade of partnership with the ICN has allowed the College to assist in providing reliable internet access services to thousands of students who have attended our institution as well as countless members of the community. Without the network infrastructure maintained by the ICN, this would not have been possible. And now, with the possibility of this grant application being realized, we are looking forward to having the opportunity to provide additional services to our community, furthering our mission to provide educational services and information access throughout our district & beyond.

As an educational institution in an Internet-enabled world, Richland Community College relies on our ICN connection to serve our students and community members. We teach classes online, provide research and access for community members through our library and satellite facilities, and interact with current, past and future students through our electronic systems. As an environmentally-conscious institution, many of our core processes exist only in an online space. As an institution looking to enhance the educational opportunities we offer while continuing to remain financially responsible, we often turn to our online systems when developing academic content or creating projects

Assistant Secretary
Page 2
March 11, 2010

that involve the community. This grant application would substantially increase the network bandwidth that is available to the College, allowing us to continue to grow our online programs & services. As an educational institution, this is crucial to our mission.

As an urban/rural college, one issue that we struggle with is our inability to provide local access to all of the constituents in our district. Our main campus and satellite facilities are situated in our urban population centers, but our rural students can be an hour away from the nearest college facility. In today's economic climate, this can pose a significant barrier for community members looking to obtain an educational degree. To break down this barrier, the college would like to offer more audio and video streaming services, allowing students to utilize computers, rather than cars, to reach their classrooms. Unfortunately, the College's current network bandwidth prevents us from realizing this plan. If this grant application were approved, the College could proceed with its plans to provide additional educational opportunities to the people in its district.

The grant proposal being discussed is ambitious, but I know that the ICN, CMS, and the other institutions involved in this project have the knowledge and ability to succeed. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-875-7200 or by email at gsaunder@richland.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gayle Saunders", written in dark ink.

Dr. Gayle M. Saunders
President



REND LAKE COLLEGE
468 N. KEN GRAY PKWY • INA, IL 62846
(618) 437-5321 • www.rlc.edu

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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,

Like many businesses and organizations across the globe, broadband has become an indispensable service at Rend Lake College. We are able to project a web presence in the form of web servers that offer a range of general information about our college to providing online classes for our students. However, we have been faced with numerous challenges when it comes to expanding broadband service in our area. We see a demand from within our district to offer more online classes and hope to utilize the additional bandwidth to accommodate this need. We currently have six T1 circuits and they maintain 100% utilization for most of the day from 8 AM to 9 PM Monday through Friday. There is currently a high demand for additional broadband bandwidth, but we are behind in accommodating this demand due to the high costs associated with implementing and maintaining additional T1 service.

We have faced numerous challenges as it relates to expansion of our broadband services. Due to our physical location, we do not qualify for cable broadband service or for DSL services. Therefore, we have been limited to T1 services which cost us \$3650 per month and procurement of these circuits has proven to be lengthy and protracted with technical issues. To compound issues, we have to rely on legacy telco copper cabling to get T1 service extended from the Demarc to our communications center.

Rend Lake College will be able to utilize the new ICN services by expanding our online curriculum to meet the modern day schedule of our constituents. Today's students are realizing the efficiencies that technology brings to their everyday life and are adjusting accordingly. The local workforce has experienced layoffs due to plant closings and is now returning to school to gain new skills and to advance their career endeavors. By providing accessibility 24 hours a day 7 days a week we can serve our students expeditiously and accommodate their demanding schedules. The projected savings that Rend Lake College would receive by utilizing ICN's new infrastructure would be approximately \$42,500 per year and we would realize bandwidth increase by a factor of 10.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-437-5321 or by email at holsteinc@rlc.edu.

Sincerely,

Charley Holstein
President

Eric C. Kudler, Ph.D.
President**Board of Trustees**Mark A. Fazzini
ChairJacqueline L. Agre
Vice ChairCurtis Sommer
Secretary

Craig Dornobae

Kathleen M. Doyle, Ed.D.

Philip L. Kaso

John J. Marks

Egon Olsen
Student Trustee

March 5, 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 grant application from Round 2 of the Broadband Stimulus funding made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Prairie State College was established in 1958 as a comprehensive public community college representing Illinois Community College District 515. The College services 19 communities and adjacent unincorporated areas in the south suburban Chicago area. The college supports over 11,000 students per year, and employs 250 benefitted employees. Prairie State College has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for over eight years to provide broadband service to the students and staff of the College. The service that ICN currently provides is highly valued because it is cost effective, reliable, and effectively managed by the ICN.

As a majority minority institution serving several communities whose residents occupy the poorest served socioeconomic strata, the College provides broadband access to students and families who otherwise would have little opportunity to participate in the internet revolution. Broadband access also serves a critical role in fulfilling the College's teaching mission. Curriculum demands are changing, and many of those changes can only be supported with increased bandwidth. Greater amounts of on-line class offerings, streaming video, web conferencing, instant messaging, social networking and remotely hosted applications are all requiring broadband service that our current broadband connection cannot fully deliver. As a result, we cannot offer all of the on-line technology that would enhance our courses and enrich the students' learning experience. Having greater bandwidth available would allow the College to not only enhance current instruction, but would also allow the development of new curriculum and grant wider internet access with the technology that can only be used with a significant broadband connection.

Assistant Secretary

March 5, 2010

Page Two

Although ICN provides the College's internet service, the last mile connection is provided by AT&T. At over \$1,800 per month for the current AT&T service in addition to the \$1,265 per month paid to the ICN, the cost is affordable, but the service is insufficient. Published pricing for high data rate services from the incumbent service providers establishes a barrier to entry for which resources are not available to overcome, especially given the current economic conditions. This inability to move to higher bandwidths affects our entire student population, our staff's ability to support the College mission, and development of partnerships within our community college district.

We believe that the broadband connectivity provided through funding of this application will enable increased efficiency of services offered to students, allow students and their families greater access to the internet, address curriculum gaps created by limited broadband capability, and provide an economic development tool by giving the College more opportunities to develop business and industry partnerships in our region by being an anchor institution for broadband connectivity.

By signature below, the College strongly supports the State of Illinois' application to provide broadband interconnection through the ICN to ensure high capacity networks are available and affordable for our schools and public institutions in Illinois. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (708) 709-3638 or by email at eradtke@prairiestate.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Radtke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Radtke" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Radtke, Ph.D.

President



REC'D MAR 03 2010

March 1, 2010

Burnham
Calumet City
Calumet Park
Chicago Heights
Country Club Hills
Crete
Dixmoor
Dolton
East Hazel Crest
Flossmoor
Ford Heights
Glenwood
Harvey
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Homewood
Lansing
Lynwood
Markham
Marengo
Midlothian
Mokena
Monee
New Lenox
Oak Forest
Olympia Fields
Orland Hills
Orland Park
Palos Heights
Park Forest
Phoenix
Posen
Richton Park
Riverdale
Robbins
Sauk Village
South Chicago Heights
South Holland
Seger
Thornton
Tinley Park
University Park

Dear Community Leader:

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) is in the process of preparing a grant application for the second round of Broadband Stimulus funding made available by Congress and the Obama Administration under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

We are currently seeking letters of support from you, as leadership of one of the key community member institutions, to include with our funding application due March 14, 2010.

Over the past two years, SSMMA has researched broadband use across the communities in the region and has established a connectivity solution that will enable enhanced services for schools, fire departments and fire protection districts, hospitals and healthcare organizations, municipal government, libraries, and private sector organizations. This broadband connectivity solution, as designed, will provide over 420 locations across our region with fiber optic connectivity and gigabit data services to better serve you, your organization, and each person who lives, works, goes to school or accesses healthcare in our community.

Please provide your non-binding support to our application by simply printing the attached letter on your letterhead, providing your signature, and returning the letter of support to us.

You may return your letter by FAX at 708-206-1133 or by email to: paesel@ssmma.org.

We will need to receive your signed letter no later than March 10, 2010 in order to include it with our application. We sincerely appreciate your help in supporting our efforts to bring funding of such an important technology to our region!

Thank you.

Edward W. Paesel
Executive Director

March 1, 2010

Mr. Edward W. Paesel
Executive Director
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
1904 W. 174th Street
East Hazel Crest, IL 60429

Dear Mr. Paesel:

This letter is our statement of support for SSMMA's grant application for funding of broadband connectivity and services from Round 2 of Broadband Stimulus funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Without grant funding, our organization is not participating and will not be able to participate in the promise of high speed network connectivity. Published pricing for high data rate services from the incumbent service providers establishes a barrier to entry for which resources are not available to overcome.

We believe that the collaborative effort to establish a regional connectivity infrastructure by SSMMA will enhance broadband services for all educational institutions in the region including community colleges, universities, high schools, primary and middle schools, and schools for children with special needs across the region. We believe this effort will also provide enhanced capabilities for the Public Safety institutions at the local, county, state and regional levels. This common infrastructure will provide hospitals, clinics and other health provider organizations with the capability to access radiologists, specialists and other services enhancing the availability and capability of the healthcare delivery system within the region.

We believe that the broadband connectivity provided through funding of this application will enable better efficiency of government, address quality of life issues, and provide an economic development tool to attract and retain business and industry in the region.

By signature below, we strongly support SSMMA's application for grant funding to provide broadband interconnection to insure high capacity networks are available and affordable for our public and private institutions in the SSMMA region.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association

Broadband Connectivity Project

Located south of the City of Chicago, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) is an intergovernmental agency providing technical assistance and joint services to 42 municipalities representing a population of just under 700,000 residents in Cook and Will Counties. SSMMA member communities work cooperatively on transportation, legislation, land use, economic development, recycling, purchasing, storm water and open space planning, infrastructure, including broadband and connectivity, human resources, public safety and housing issues.

SSMMA has completed a two year comprehensive study of broadband connectivity across the region establishing the primary tenets that are the foundation of the SSMMA Broadband Connectivity Project. SSMMA applied for funding through ARRA (American Recovery and Revitalization Act) stimulus funds under Round One NTIA BTOP program and is on track to complete the second application under Round Two funding guidelines.

A broad range of connectivity needs were identified through interviews with IT directors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, mayors and other government leadership, school principals and superintendents, individual business representatives and many other community and regional representatives. While the needs of each of these groups were often different, the data drawn from the research strongly indicates that broadband connectivity will have a significant impact on every school, every police department, every fire department, every hospital and clinic in every community and to the entire Southland region serving to strengthen each institution, offer economic development opportunities and improve the overall quality of life in the Southland.

The broadband project designed focuses on implementing solutions that will provide the bandwidth to meet the needs identified by the research. In addition to addressing current needs, the broadband connectivity solution proposed for implementation anticipates the rising demand in the region for further capabilities, and has the bandwidth and the scalability to add bandwidth as needs expand. The connectivity solution is designed to support and attract potential users, including schools, municipalities and other public sector organizations, and is anchored with each community and the region to offer new ways to deliver services, improve efficiencies, and to continue to make the Southland a better place to live and work.

The SSMMA broadband connectivity project will implement a fiber optic based broadband network infrastructure providing broadband Ethernet connectivity to over 420 anchor institutions in the region including schools, libraries, medical and healthcare facilities, public safety facilities, public computer centers and government and public sector entities. The network extends fiber based broadband access to every community in the region offering available and affordable broadband services to promote better education, create economic growth opportunities, improve access to healthcare and health services, and enable effective tools for public safety organizations.

The network will provide primary aggregation of educational access to the Internet linking 280 individual primary, secondary and higher education sites eliminating current economic and

(over)

infrastructure obstacles to access. The infrastructure will serve police departments, fire departments, fire protection districts, consolidated dispatch and PSAP sites in the region offering the bandwidth to make full use of GIS and mapping based applications for law enforcement and fire department personnel.

The network provides industrial and economic development connectivity throughout the region giving unprecedented access to business development sites and brownfield locations. The broadband network is critical to expanding the alternative energy industry linking primary research, manufacturing and production facilities across the region and providing high capacity Internet and regional gateway services to facilitate participation in a global economy.

The SSMMA Regional Broadband Connectivity Project will provide direct employment for approximately 232 individual fiber network design, engineering, implementation and installation technologists for the three year implementation cycle and generate an ongoing permanent direct employment of 64 individuals in management, operations and expansion of the fiber system.

Regional impacts of the fiber network include the anticipated establishment of 64 new businesses with expected hiring of 1,200 to 1,600 employees over 5 years.



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,

Parkland College is excited about the benefits that would be available to us by the successful award of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Parkland College is a community college located in Champaign, Illinois. This fully accredited, public community college delivers vocational-technical and academic instruction to District 505, the third largest community college district in Illinois. Parkland is a center for educational opportunity and community enrichment in east central Illinois serving 12,000 students.

Parkland has partnered with Illinois Century Network for nearly 10 years. During that time, the level of service provided has been a valued asset to our college. The proposed State of Illinois / CMS broadband infrastructure project would provide an additional benefit by allowing us to reduce our high -cost dependence on local telco carriers while at the same time providing a high-speed link to our fellow community colleges. The benefit of that high-speed network would allow for greater real-time collaboration of colleges, which is cost prohibitive if done with local carriers.

An additional benefit to this proposal is that Parkland would be able to explore the possibilities of extending services to users in rural areas that are not able to be served currently.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Ramage, Ed.D.
President
ramage@parkland.edu

Doug Brooks
Director of Information Technology
Parkland College
Champaign IL
dbrooks@parkland.edu



Olney Central College

305 North West Street
Olney, Illinois 62450-1099
618-395-7777, ext. 2001
Fax 618-392-5212
e-mail: davisj@iecc.edu

DR. JACKIE L. DAVIS
President

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,

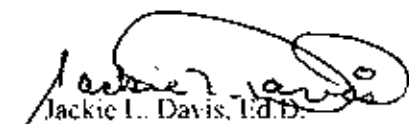
Please accept this letter as an expression of Olney Central College's (OCC) support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant. As a member of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) multi-college district we are limited by bandwidth restrictions due to the high circuit costs and lack of carrier options in our area. The model described in the State's proposal holds the potential to address a number of needs for our district.

Providing sufficient bandwidth to our students is a constant challenge. OCC has relied on the Illinois Century Network for Internet access and technical services for the last ten years. The quality of the service has been excellent. Due to funding constraints, OCC has only 3Mb connection to the Internet which limits the applications that can be supported. The State's proposal has the potential to provide additional bandwidth to our IECC district at an affordable rate allowing us to offer additional services to our students.

OCC serves a high number of low income citizens who are unable to access or afford broadband services and computers. Many of these citizens utilize OCC's facilities to gain access to computers and broadband services they cannot access at home. Additional bandwidth would give us the ability to expand access to our students and citizens.

OCC strongly supports the State's proposal and the opportunities it could bring to our students and the citizens of Southeastern Illinois. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-395-7777 or by email at davisj@iecc.edu. You may also contact Alex Cline, Director of Information and Communications Technology at 618-393-2982 or clinea@iecc.edu.

Sincerely,



Jackie L. Davis, Ed.D.
President



Office of
the President

1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847.635.1801
Fax 847.635.1992

5 March 2010

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

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, Illinois, serves 465,000 residents in the near north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. Approximately 43,000 students enroll in Oakton's credit and noncredit courses each year. For over ten years, Oakton has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) to provide wide area networking services to the college, both as an intranet (between Illinois institutions) and as our access point to the internet. The ICN services have proved highly reliable, and for most of this period offered an outstanding value to our college community.

High quality, high speed data transmission is essential to the operations of a 21st century institution. The demands for contemporary technologies such as online instruction, streaming media, internet telephony, and disaster recovery have put enormous pressure on the resources of the college. Oakton, like other colleges, has had to direct more and more funding to supporting network services. This year, particularly, we have struggled to provide adequate, reliable bandwidth at reasonable cost.

Oakton believes in the value of collaboration in our state, and eagerly supports working with the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Century Network to provide robust, reliable and affordable connectivity for our college. The success of our students depends on our ability to provide them the means to study and learn with 21st century tools.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret B. Lee".

Margaret B. Lee
President



MORaine VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Moraine Valley Community College is supportive of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Moraine Valley has enjoyed a relationship with the ICN since mid 2000. Moraine Valley currently serves over 20,000 students with an FTE of 10,713, plus faculty, staff and community members. Without the bandwidth provided by the State of Illinois, it would be very difficult to offer our faculty, staff and students sufficient bandwidth for our technology needs.

As technology changes, so does the need for increased bandwidth. In the past year, we have added over 500 computers as well as wireless access across campus, which has resulted in the need to purchase additional bandwidth. Currently, we have 74MB of bandwidth: 24 from the ICN and 50 from a local broadband provider. The costs for additional bandwidth from the ICN proved too much for our budget. We now pay \$2,950 a month for 50MB from our broadband provider. The same bandwidth from the ICN would cost us approximately \$5,000 per month plus the costs of upgrading our current opt-e-man connection.

The ability to increase our bandwidth would certainly enhance the learning experience because we would be able to provide a more robust environment to our faculty, staff, students and the community members we serve.

Moraine Valley would be happy to provide assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding. Please contact Sue Gray at 708-974-5438 or Chang Ding at 708-974-5434. gray@morainevalley.edu; dingc@morainevalley.edu.

Sincerely,

Susan Gray

Director, Network Operations/Information Security

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:

On behalf of McHenry County College I would like to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. McHenry County College (MCC) is a public community college that was chartered with passage of a referendum in April 1967. In September 1968, its doors first opened to 312 full-time students and 1,045 part-time students. MCC now serves 60,000 residents annually through its broad range of programming that includes: six baccalaureate transfer programs; 17 associate degrees and 44 certificates designed for career training; programs advancing business development, adult basic education, continuing education; and special events. The college serves a district in the far northwest suburbs of Chicago, in one of the fastest growing counties in Illinois – having grown over 74 percent in population between 1990 and 2010 to its current 318,640 residents. MCC's Board of Trustees, (elected at-large for six-year terms), oversees the college's policies, operations and budget and ensures that programming fulfills the college's mission: "At McHenry County College, we value learning and we put the interests of our students and community first. By providing high quality, affordable and accessible learning opportunities, we enable students to meet their educational, career and personal goals. By sharing our knowledge and resources, we support our community's educational, social, cultural and economic vitality."


As a public community college, MCC has an open door policy which accepts any student who seeks services. Students include traditional-aged and adult learners, immigrants and native citizens, incumbent workers and the under- and unemployed, and individuals with a range of physical and learning abilities. As a result, it offers comprehensive services to meet the needs of a diverse clientele. The college implements a seamless service delivery and enrollment system with MCC's departments of advising, admissions, adult education, and student services. Because of the vast array of programming offered at MCC, clients can be referred to remedial or advanced training programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) or literacy classes, multicultural programs and student clubs, or to the Department of Special Needs, which specializes in disability services.

For the past ten years, Illinois Century Network has served as MCC's primary Internet service provider, and has provided exceptional service that includes invaluable technical support and advice. In the past four years alone MCC has needed to increase bandwidth from 6Mb to 30Mb. Illinois Century Network has worked with MCC to provide the best possible cost by providing custom contracts with the Telco providers.

McHenry County College would like to increase its online services to students by adding more hybrid classes, student services, and online placement testing, which require increased bandwidth. In addition, in order to deliver content that meets multiple learning styles, there will be an increased use of video and instructional software that requires bandwidth at a sustainable level to provide quality of service. There are many events held at the college and having the ability to offer these via a webcast, live and on demand, would enhance service to the community. Increased bandwidth would play a significant role in developing more robust disaster recovery solutions for the college. At this time, MCC has limited ability to expand online service offerings due to continued effort to meet MCC's immediate needs. Although MCC has doubled its bandwidth several times recently, it fills rapidly, which impacts MCC's budget.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (815) 455-8725 or by email at kplinske@mchenry.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Plinske". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Kathleen Plinske
Interim President

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

An Illinois Eastern Community College

11220 State Highway 1 • Robinson, IL 62454-5707 • 618 544-8657

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,

Lincoln Trail College is in a rural area which would benefit greatly from being a part of the Illinois Century Network. Located in Crawford County, broadband access will allow for economic development in this area. Since the inception of ICN we are very hopeful our college will be a part of this grant opportunity.

The current bandwidth is simply not sufficient to provide the needed technological support necessary for the diverse programs at LTC. Expenses incurred with additional purchase of bandwidth are not possible with our reduced budget. Higher capacity from the new ICN will allow Lincoln Trail College to move forward technologically.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618 544-8657, Ext. 1121 or by email at turkalb@iecc.edu.

Sincerely,


Beverly Turkal
President

djc



Celebrating 40 Years
1969 - 2009



Lincoln Land Community College

5250 Shepherd Rd. P.O. Box 19256 Springfield, IL 62794-9256
217/786-2200 • 800/727-4161 • TDD 217/786-2798 • www.llcc.edu

Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D., President

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,

Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) is a two-year public institution providing higher education granting certificates, diplomas and associate's degrees. LLCC district comprises all or part of 15 counties in central and central southern Illinois and covers 4,115 square miles. LLCC has partnered with Illinois Century Network for over 10 years. This partnership has had a direct contribution to the technology the college is able to offer to the thousands of students we serve each semester. With their support the college offers an online clearinghouse of courses leading to degree completion.

The college's current bandwidth is simply not enough to serve our students appropriately. 45Mbps of Internet bandwidth must satisfy the increasing needs of infrastructure, online courses, faculty utilizing online materials during class time, wireless zones for the students on main campus, as well as the Internet usage for the whole of administration and staff.

Extending fiber to LLCC would immensely benefit students, faculty and staff. The increased Internet bandwidth would help ease the challenges the college is currently facing. The increasing number of online courses and the progressive richness of Web content used during classes would be better served. The increased quality of online content would dramatically improve the teaching and learning experience in the classroom. Online students would benefit from a responsive LMS server and other Internet-dependant services provided from campus.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Lincoln Land Community College

5250 Shepherd Rd. P.O. Box 19256 Springfield, IL 62794-9256
217/786-2200 • 800/727-4161 • TDD 217/786-2798 • www.llcc.edu

Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D., President

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-786-2265 or by email at esteban.cruz@llcc.edu.

Sincerely,

Esteban Cruz
Chief Information Officer

Charlotte Warren, Ph.D.
President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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STUDENT
Mary Beth Clark
Vergennes



LINCOLN
COLLEGE
Normal

December 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support from Lincoln College for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) proposal. Lincoln College is a private, independent, co-educational institution of higher learning. The College currently operates from two campuses. The flagship campus, Lincoln College-Lincoln is located in Lincoln Illinois. This campus is among the select few continuing to serve the country as a 2-year, private, residential college. Lincoln College - Normal opened in 1979 as an extension of Lincoln College-Lincoln. Today, Lincoln College - Normal has a permanent campus with classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices, five student residential units, a student center, and the Midwest College of Cosmetology. The Normal Campus currently offers bachelor and associate degree programs, certificate programs, and professional development programs to approximately 500 students. The campus prides itself on offering traditional-aged and adult students high quality courses in various delivery modes.

We specifically support the CIRBN initiative for our adult student population that takes courses in both accelerated and online formats. These students would benefit from high speed internet access as they are primarily residents of McLean County, living within Bloomington/Normal and the surrounding rural communities listed in the proposal. The success of our students in our accelerated degree programs and our online programs depend on them having appropriate access to the low-cost, high speed internet for classes, especially those living in the rural areas.

Additionally, with such a service available to our students and to our campus, our faculty would be able to engage our students through more technology (e.g., videoconferencing, podcasting). Currently we limit such options due to lack of access to high speed, low cost internet access. Our faculty members are eager to use such technologies, but only when they are confident all students have a similar type of internet access.

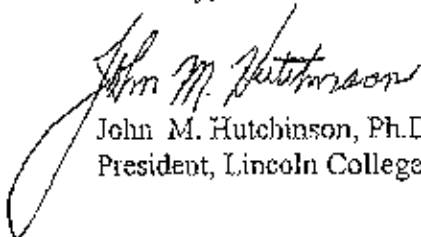
Finally, the potential connectivity to the commodity Internet, the state network, and various research networks so that our faculty and students will have access to local, regional, state, national, and international resources. As we continue to grow the number of baccalaureate degree programs and begin to offer advanced degrees, this connectivity will be critical.

Should this proposal be funded, Lincoln College-Normal will be in a better position to meet its mission of "offering quality educational programs in professional studies and liberal arts


to a diverse student population. Central to the mission is the College's positive response to the changing needs of its community."

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



John M. Hutchinson, Ph.D.
President, Lincoln College



A. Gigi Fansler, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Lincoln College-Normal



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,

Lewis and Clark Community College (LC) wishes to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our college serves 221,000 area residents in a 5 county mostly rural area with quality dynamic and affordable learning experiences that prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, for entry into the workforce, and for career advancement through continuing education. The community college is multi-campus with a spring enrollment of 8,506 and growing, putting increasing demands on Internet service providers for bandwidth to support web based applications, web enhanced courses, telecommunications and high definition video conferencing.

Access to the Illinois Century Network (ICN) backbone from the main campus site has been provided via a 100 Mbps leased fiber connection from Charter Communications since 2002. In 2006, the college formed the LCCC Consortium with members from area public and parochial schools, libraries, state agencies and hospitals to facilitate the equitable distribution of costs and subsidies for this link, and share the allocated bandwidth which is set at 38 Mbps through the establishment of a community POP. Alton School District and The Hayner Public Library System have been key players in this consortium. Lewis & Clark Community College is interested in continuing to serve as a community POP for the ICN to economically provide connections and last mile transport to eligible organizations in the service area.

Lewis and Clark Community College urgently requires broadband expanded capacity at this juncture of the College's history to fulfill our strategic mission in the following ways:

- In July 2010, Lewis and Clark will occupy a new national research facility...the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC).
- NGRREC contemplates research broadband data requirements on aquatic data sets, terrestrial inventories and mapping and tracking human interaction affecting the Mississippi river watershed.

Currently the College is working with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Illinois Natural History Survey, America Waterway, The Nature Conservancy and more than 15 other groups in assimilating large scale data. Long term river

monitoring and multiple river sets are ideal use of broadband applications with our colleagues in China, Africa, South America and Europe.

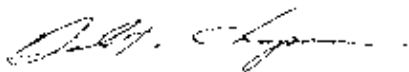
ICN broadband access has enabled the college, area schools and libraries, and other members of the consortium to keep pace with the wonderful opportunities global access to the Internet has provided. It is a critical learning technology and one of the greatest green solutions allowing the sharing of information, on-line learning experiences and faster communication without the use of paper or inks. It is critical to our future learning that we be able to facilitate greater access to broadband technologies, and find affordable ways to meet ever increasing bandwidth requirements that applications are demanding. Having greater bandwidth available to more locations and to users would definitely allow us to take advantage of higher definition applications using video streaming technologies. Just as an example, when we experimented with lifting the lid on the allocated bandwidth from the ICN during the presidential election the bandwidth required for the video streaming at our location doubled. Broadband is an important critical technology to our organization. With high capacities, we can look forward to expanding and implementing broad band services in our organization.

One of the challenges we face is that most connections to our POP from entities are over copper T1s with limited 1.5 Mbps bandwidth capabilities. The build-out costs to run fiber to locations is currently cost prohibitive. We recently looked at running fiber to a new research center located along the river and found it hard to justify (\$57,000 build-out, \$1400 monthly for 5 Mbps bandwidth), so we went with the lower bandwidth copper T1s back to main campus.

We also have several rural community education center locations where the cost to run a copper connection back to the main campus is still cost prohibitive. In these areas we have opted for the lower speed, less reliable, poorer QoS DSL connections or dial-up, and continue to suffer from frequent service interruptions, disconnections and slower speeds. All of this impacts our ability to serve and be responsive to our communities. We even have mobile nursing units needing Internet access and providing reliable service is still a big challenge which impacts patients (including elderly) in the rural and more economically disadvantaged areas we serve.

If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-468-2000 or by email at dchapman@lc.edu.

Very truly yours,



Dale T. Chapman, Ed.D.
President



Lake Land College

5001 Lake Land Blvd
Maitland, Illinois 61938-9366
(312) 234-5722
www.lakelandcollege.edu

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Eeland Glazebrook

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Doris Reynolds

Student Trustee
Josh Wollin

President
Scott Lensink

March 5, 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:

Lake Land College enthusiastically supports the State of Illinois' Broadband Stimulus Grant application. The College is a public community college located in east-central Illinois with a large geographic district of over 5,000 square miles, approximately the same size as the state of Connecticut. We serve over 20,000 individuals annually, many of whom come from low to moderate income families with limited educational attainment. The access to broadband internet in many parts of the district is grossly inadequate or nonexistent and often serves as a limiting factor for economic and social advancement. The College and its extension center serve as a community's hub for fast, dependable internet access, the Illinois Century Network (ICN) playing a large part in our ability to provide that needed access.

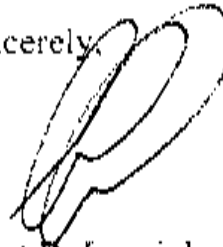
The College has been served by the ICN almost since its inception. Our Director of Information Systems and Services has been involved as a member of the Advanced Engineering Taskforce and has attended annual regional meetings of the ICN to provide input on how the Network could better support our students. Were it not for the broadband access this network provides, we would not be able to provide online courses for the 2,097 students taking an online course this Spring term, nor would we be able to provide for the 559 students taking only online courses this Spring term.

Broadband capability is critical to Lake Land College in myriad ways. It provides for the continued support of new and innovative teaching methods. It provides for access to content in the classroom that is only available via the internet or rich media presentation techniques. It provides the bandwidth required for meeting students where they want to meet, in areas such as learning management systems, Facebook, YouTube, and other social networking sites, utilizing chat rooms, video conferencing, and stored rich media presentations (videos). It presents us with the ability to attend presentations and meetings via webinars and collaborative software tools, thereby reducing travel. It provides the bandwidth required for our distance learning implementation, which provides access to teachers and courses that otherwise would not be available in some of the smaller communities we serve. It allows our international and out-of-state parents to utilize streaming media applications to watch events involving their child, such as the annual graduation ceremony.

In the past eight years, our needs have increased from 3Mb of internet pipe required to support our College's needs to 32Mb. Yet from early in the day until late afternoon, the internet pipe is constantly full. During registration periods and critical times when students are submitting final projects, managing the internet pipe becomes impossible due to the limitations imposed by the amount of available internet bandwidth. One of the biggest issues we face is the cost associated with increasing the amount of bandwidth. Last mile costs for us are significant and are the single largest limiting factor of our bandwidth. In fact, we have two communities in underserved areas of our district, Pana and Marshall, where we simply cannot offer the services that we would like. We have identified the need in each of these locations for distance learning classrooms that would expand the nursing program but simply cannot afford the broadband costs. In both these communities, Lake Land College is seen as a key player in their continued economic development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in bringing this much needed increase in broadband accessibility to our district and the state of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Lensink', written over a large, stylized capital letter 'P'.

Scott R. Lensink
President

SRL/lf



Dr. Thomas L. Choice
President
(815) 825-2086, ext. 2010
email: tchoice@kishwaukeecollege.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,

Kishwaukee College supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We have been providing educational opportunities since 1968 to an ever-increasing number of students, this year serving approximately 10,500 students and community members. We have been partners with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for several years for broadband Internet access. Our ability to provide affordable Internet access in support of our educational mission is made possible only through our partnership with ICN.

Faster broadband access to the Internet, though, is becoming increasingly important as our students and faculty continue to use more hosted services, online content, and IP-based streaming video lectures to enhance the educational process. Increasing the middle-mile bandwidth will allow us to take advantage of shared systems and services that can be broadcast and accessed across the ICN network.

We are anxious for increased middle-mile bandwidth to partner with other community colleges to consolidate learning systems and information resources, to deliver higher-bandwidth Internet-based instruction, and to host shared disaster recovery solutions. Increased middle-mile bandwidth will also provide opportunities for our Center for Business Development to host online training for businesses as well as to develop new business in the region.

Please feel free to contact Scott Armstrong if we can be of any assistance or if you have any questions regarding our support in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding. He can be reached via E-mail at scott@kishwaukeecollege.edu or via telephone at 815-825-2086, extensions 3580.

Sincerely,

Tom Choice
President
Kishwaukee College
21193 Malta Road
Malta, IL 60150-9699



27210 College Road
Centralia, IL 62801
618-545-3000 www.kaskaskia.edu

Kaskaskia College
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Mr. Brian T. Courtney Mr. Robert H. Gaffner
Mr. John W. Hawley Mr. Jack Mays
Ms. Linda Stover
Mr. Jacob Streuter, Student Trustee

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,

Kaskaskia College (KC) fully supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. KC is a comprehensive community college in South Central Illinois that employs 237 faculty members and 219 staff and administrators for a total of 456 employees. A record number of 12,000 students will be served in the current fiscal year. The unprecedented 77% enrollment growth at KC since 2001 when we first entered into partnership with Illinois Century Network (ICN) has brought many challenges in maintaining the superior quality educational services expected from Kaskaskia College. Following a similar growth trend for overall enrollment, online learning currently represents 16% of our total enrollment and is increasing more rapidly than any other student cohort. Further, students, faculty, staff and administrators have grown to rely on immediate access to the World Wide Web for daily operations and educational services. Therefore, the State of Illinois/CMS broadband infrastructure is extremely valuable to Kaskaskia College in providing reliable Internet access for our students as well as faculty, staff and administrators. ICN's dependable support services are vital to Kaskaskia College as we strive to provide uninterrupted services around the clock to meet the needs of all our stakeholders.

As an institution of higher learning it is imperative that we provide a quality education to our students that will prepare them for the future. Online education demands that Kaskaskia College keep pace with the changing needs of the online learner. Currently, limitations in broadband have forced our institution to limit ourselves on what services we can provide. For example, enhanced communication tools that allow class discussion can be incorporated into an online class; however, this tool takes resources from our campus broadband capacity and, at times, has to be limited due to a lack of campus resources. KC has the ability to offer a web-enhanced feature to all courses that would allow twenty-four hour access to classroom

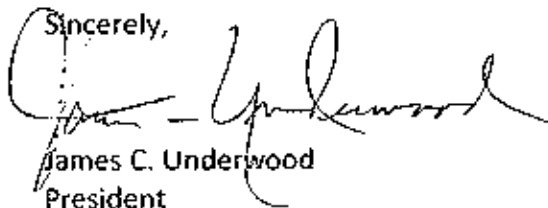
materials, resources, and faculty; but with limitations with broadband capacity, this feature will have to be limited to online classes exclusively. Likewise, the demand for online and hybrid classes continues to grow and student needs may not be met because of broadband limitations on our campus. Future plans for online at KC involve offering an entire associate's degree online; however, without increased broadband, the necessary support services will not become a reality. As technological advancements are made in online class delivery and support services, our institution cannot afford to fall beyond in providing these vital resources to our students. In order to serve our online learners appropriately, we must have access and resources that require significantly increased broadband capacity for the KC campus.

Due to our rural geographic location, we are severely restricted in the availability of high bandwidth access. Due to build-out costs, our current provider is reluctant to install the needed facilities in order to supply KC with additional bandwidth needed to support our rapidly expanding student population. This is particularly critical for many of our students who are time and place bound in rural South Central Illinois. The only option available is for KC to pay in full for the construction of the provider's infrastructure necessary to extend service to the College. This is not a viable option either logically or financially in view of the current financial crisis within the State of Illinois.

With the rapid growth and development of our online services and curriculum, our bandwidth needs have far exceeded our current capacity. With the higher capacities that the new ICN will be able to offer, we will be able to significantly expand educational opportunities and streamline operational processes for greater efficiency. As advances in technology continue to evolve at an extraordinary rate, Kaskaskia College must be in the forefront in providing technical training and knowledge to prepare our rural residents to fulfill the demands of the regional workforce to facilitate economic growth and development in an economically challenged geographic area.

If there is anything I can do to assist in the promotion and support of this application for the State of Illinois for broadband stimulus funding, please do not hesitate to contact me at 618-545-3010 or by e-mail at junderwood@kaskaskia.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Underwood", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Underwood" clearly distinguishable.

James C. Underwood
President

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 Assistant Secretary:

On behalf of the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees, I would like to express support for the state of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application.

As a member of the Illinois Century Network since 2002, Joliet Junior College currently supports network communications services to 28 municipalities, schools, and libraries behind our Illinois Century Network connection. The college's central Data Center facilities are ideal to provide the additional space, uninterruptible power and motor generator systems necessary to effectively accommodate expansion of this statewide infrastructure initiative.

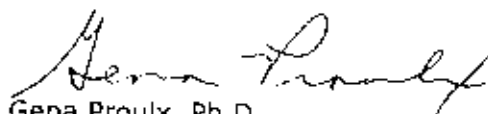
Currently, the college's 50MB communications link, which is provided through the Illinois Century Network, is valued at approximately \$17,500 annually. In addition to the 28 municipalities, schools, and libraries supported through JJC's connection to the ICN, this linkage represents a lifeline for the college in offering all the programs and services to the students and community members we serve in our 1,442 square mile district. With the increased bandwidth capacity that would be facilitated by this grant, this would provide an opportunity for Joliet Junior College to establish critical partnerships with a variety of other Illinois institutions (both within and outside higher education) in support of important business continuity and disaster recovery initiatives.

Additionally, the increased bandwidth would allow Joliet Junior College to partner with regional area businesses to develop a Technology Center for Excellence showcasing emerging technologies and offering more localized technology training and certification programs.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the state of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me or Mr. Dwayne Cable, vice president for information technology at (815) 280-6641 or via e-mail at dcable@jjc.edu.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gena Proulx, Ph.D.
President



John Wood Community College

1301 South 48th Street • Quincy, Illinois 62305-8736
(217) 224-6500 • Fax: (217) 224-4208 • www.jwcc.edu

Office of the President

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,

On behalf of the John Wood Community College Board of Trustees I would like to express the College's support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. JWCC serves a nine-county rural district with a population of 96,450. As a member of the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for more than 10 years, John Wood has used the increased bandwidth provided by the ICN to meet our online growth to expand online learning and to better serve our district. The infrastructure that the Department of Central Management Services created is directly responsible for the bandwidth choices we enjoy.

While John Wood's campus in Quincy is a Point of Presence Site, the outlying parts of the College's geographic service area of 2,363 square miles does not benefit from ICN. Currently, John Wood has three T1 lines that connect to our outreach centers in Pittsfield, Mt Sterling, and Perry, Illinois. We struggle with bandwidth constraints at these sites to perform basic functions. Delivering distance learning classes, administrative software, voice over IP, and internet has been challenging due to prohibitive costs and limited options for service. AT&T is our current provider of T1s at a cost of \$500 per line per month. Attempts to find better bandwidth in these areas at competitive prices have been unsuccessful. We cannot find additional providers in these rural areas to compete, so we continue to pay inflated prices for such lines.

If ICN can bring fiber into the rural areas of our district, it will not only allow John Wood Community College the opportunity to deliver services at higher bandwidth and lower prices, but also provide the opportunity for the people living in these rural areas to have more choices and better rates.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me direct at 217.641.4101 or by email at tklincar@jwcc.edu. Should you have any technical questions, please contact my Director of Information Services Josh Brueck at 217.641.4320 or jbrueck@jwcc.edu.

Sincerely,

Thomas Klincar
President, John Wood Community College



JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, Illinois 62918

March 5, 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,

John A. Logan College would like to express support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. John A. Logan is a community college located in southern Illinois serving more than 20,000 students annually. Logan has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) since the mid-1990s. The service provided by ICN is invaluable in the ongoing education of our students and community constituencies.

Adequate broadband is of critical importance to John A. Logan College. Enrollments for online learning increase every year. Demand for broadband in the instructional classroom environment continues to increase more rapidly than for which institutions of higher education can provide. Present bandwidth costs are such that they impede full use of online resources that are so valuable to classroom instruction. Since bandwidth must be metered so tightly, the rich opportunities the internet offers for learning are restricted. Greater bandwidth availability would allow video, audio, and online conferencing to actually become what they are intended to be—irreplaceable components of classroom instruction.

At John A. Logan College, broadband service alternatives have yet to become available. Every so often, an internet provider makes rumblings about bringing their broadband service to Logan. To date, ICN is our only viable choice. Expansion of fiber to our door would provide access for students and the public that generally are not available in southern Illinois. If John A. Logan College was, through this grant, able to play a role as a broadband conduit for the citizens of the surrounding area, the benefits would be tremendous. The communications possibilities that could be opened up for libraries, public schools, health care facilities, law enforcement agencies, fire protection districts and local governments would be of immeasurable value.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 985-3741 or by email at robertmees@jalc.edu.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Mees, Ph.D.
President, John A. Logan College

DIRECT EXTENSION ACCESS: (618) 985-2828 or 457-7678
OPERATOR: (618) 985-3741, 549-7335, 542-8612, 937-3438, TTY 985-2752
WEB SITE: <http://www.jalc.edu>

John A. Logan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender orientation.



Office of the President
Jerome M. Corcoran, EdD

March 4, 2010

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

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC), I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application.

IVCC's access to high speed broadband is nonexistent. Currently the college spends over \$55,780 per year for a 25Mb connection to the Internet through the Illinois Century Network. Comcast, the local cable company, cannot provide an affordable solution.

If a high speed broadband network could be extended into the Illinois Valley, both public and private entities would have access to an affordable high speed broadband connection, and IVCC's connection costs could be reduced by over two thirds. In fact, projecting the college's increasing demand for bandwidth, IVCC could save up to \$900,000 over the next 5 years. IVCC needs to have broadband connections between the IVCC campus in Oglesby, the new satellite center in Ottawa, and four-year institutions such as Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University to handle the high quality video and audio that create the immersive, face-to-face experience required for effective teaching at a distance.

High-speed broadband access and connectivity are vital for economic growth, global competitiveness, education, innovation, and creativity. Ensuring high-speed broadband access for everyone has become a critical national issue, especially when considering preparing the next generation for work and life in the 21st century. However, surveys conducted by the Pew Internet and American Life Project indicate that although 57 percent of those interviewed nationwide indicated having broadband connections at home, only 41 percent of rural respondents could make the same claim. This gap in broadband access will result in the continued disenfranchisement of rural residents as society moves further along the information highway. High-speed access is a necessity in a global economy and a critical part of economic development, revival, and survival in rural areas, such as the Illinois Valley.

High-speed networks provide a myriad of benefits to a region. The network could be used for public safety applications, such as notifying households or other locations of problems. Warnings of tornadoes, floods, nuclear and industrial accidents could be addressed to specific geographic clusters of networks. Residents could gain critical seconds of warning in an emergency.

Of course, education is also a compelling application. Schools need high-speed access to effectively create rigorous, technology-infused learning environments. Teachers need guaranteed, long-term access to high-speed broadband to enrich the curriculum by including technology applications such as videoconferencing, distance learning, streaming video and access to Internet II resources. Students need high-speed broadband access to overcome the digital divide in rural and low socio-economic areas.

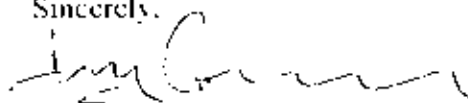
As IVCC moves forward with plans to build a Community Technology Center and to establish an instructional center in the City of Ottawa, access to reliable high-speed broadband access is becoming increasingly critical. One potential and very exciting opportunity to augment curriculum through the application of high-speed connectivity is being discussed: IVCC currently offers the Making Industry Meaningful in College (MIMIC) program, a nationally recognized program for innovation in placing electronics, engineering design, manufacturing, and marketing students in mock companies that select, design, prototype, manufacture, market, and sell products. The program mimics industrial company structure, allowing students to experience a workplace environment in a classroom setting. Through the application of high-speed broadband access, Advanced MIMIC could take this learning experience to the next level. By placing some elements of the process in Ottawa and others in Oglesby, the program could more closely simulate the real-world, global economic production and distribution chain.

In addition, IVCC is working closely with regional public universities to make baccalaureate and graduate programs available to residents of our district; broadband access is critical to this effort. It is often impossible to sustain a cohort model of instruction in specific fields of study, since this requires 20 or more students to be enrolled in a program at any given time. However, by utilizing internet delivery methods, even one place-bound student could have the opportunity to complete a program of study and launch a new and exciting career.

Enhanced broadband is important because it creates opportunities for a spectrum of applications ranging from new forms of entertainment and education to ways of improving health and safety. In particular, it is very important for education, where a new digital divide threatens to open between urban and rural students. For this reason, the IVCC community strongly supports any efforts to bring high-speed broadband access to the Illinois Valley and is willing to provide reasonable financial resources to achieve this objective.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815.224.0404 or by email at jerry_coreoran@ivcc.edu.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jerry Coreoran
President



ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

233 EAST CHESTNUT OLNEY, ILLINOIS 62450-2298 618-393-2982 FAX 618-393-4316

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

March 5, 2010

Assistant Secretary Lawrence E. Strickling
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 Mr. Strickling:

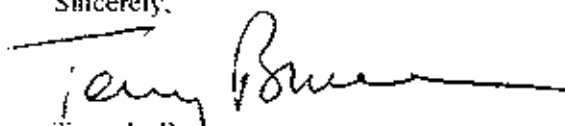
Please accept this letter as an expression of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' (IECC) support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant. IECC is a multi-college district consisting of Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Olney Central College in Olney and Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel and are limited by bandwidth restrictions due to the high circuit costs and lack of carrier options in our area. The model described in the State's proposal holds the potential to address a number of needs for our district.

Providing sufficient bandwidth to our colleges and the over 28,000 students we serve annually is a constant challenge. IECC has relied on the Illinois Century Network for Internet access and technical services for the last ten years. The quality of the service has been excellent. Due to funding constraints, each of our colleges have only 3Mb connections to the Internet so we are limited in the applications that can be supported. The State's proposal has the potential to provide additional bandwidth to our colleges at an affordable rate allowing us to offer additional services to our students.

Located in rural Southern Illinois, IECC serves a high number of low income citizens who are unable to access or afford broadband services and computers. Many of these citizens utilize the four IECC colleges' facilities to gain access to computers and broadband services they cannot access at home. Additional bandwidth to our colleges would give us the ability to expand access to our students and citizens.

IECC strongly supports the State's proposal and the opportunities it could bring to our Colleges and the citizens of Southeastern Illinois. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-393-2982 or by email at bruce@iecc.edu. You may also contact Alex Cline, Director of Information and Communications Technology at 618-393-2982 or clinea@iecc.edu.

Sincerely,


Terry L. Bruce

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
John S. Erwin, PhD



March 5, 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,

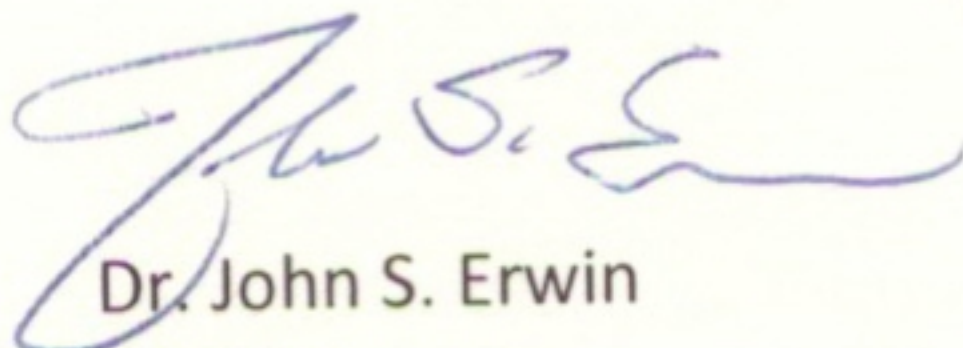
Illinois Central College (ICC) supports the Illinois Century Network (ICN) broadband stimulus grant application. Illinois Central College is a community college that serves the residents of all or parts of ten counties in Central Illinois: Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Bureau, Logan, Marshall, Livingston, McLean, Stark, and Mason. The college district consists of 2,322 square miles and is the 7th largest in district size. For more than 15 years, ICC has relied on ICN to provide Internet access for the college community.

Currently, ICC is restricted to 16 Mb of bandwidth by ICN. Bandwidth allocations are based upon a full time equivalent (FTE) number of students. ICC reported 7,855 FTE students in FY2009, however, ICC serves a headcount of more than 18,993 students. The increase in enrollments this year combined with the bandwidth restrictions in the fall drastically limited access through bandwidth shaping to only the most essential activities online. The restrictions compromised the ability to provide student services off campus, the ability to access Internet resources in classrooms, and the delivery of online courses.

Tests have shown that ICC requires a minimum of 50 Mb of bandwidth to continue to provide an acceptable level of access to the Internet. ICC relies heavily on the Internet. ICC has over 2,000 courses with an online component, 175 classrooms with computers, and 2,800 computers used daily by students. Students rely on college services over the Internet to apply to ICC, register for classes, purchase textbooks, pay for classes, check grades, and many other related services. Business processes such as purchasing, payroll, invoicing, financial aid disbursement, and emergency notification all depend upon access to the Internet.

ICN has always been in the past a reliable resource for ICC. The college has had a long history of excellent service from them and we support their request for broadband stimulus funding. If there is any way ICC can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 309-694-5520 or by email at jerwin@icc.edu.

Sincerely,



Dr. John S. Erwin
President



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 5, 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:

Highland Community College supports the initiative for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The college's mission is built around meeting the needs of the greater northwest Illinois community by providing quality educational and cultural programs, with over 60 degrees and certificates offered to the residents of our district. We are proud to serve roughly 5,000 students annually at our campus in Freeport and at satellite locations throughout the district. Our institution meets our students' technological needs for coursework and job training with the college's commitment to keeping access to relevant technology current.

One critically important aspect of our technology has been our access to the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for our Internet bandwidth. Highland has partnered with the ICN for nearly 10 years and depends on them for their bandwidth and expertise in alternate and backup connection options that have strengthened our partnership with them and increased the value of the services we receive.

Like many other organizations, Highland is becoming increasingly dependent upon access to reliable, high-speed bandwidth. We have many critical applications that are hosted by our application vendors, each requiring access to more and more bandwidth, especially as the content they deliver becomes more media-rich. With the availability of additional bandwidth, we would be able to explore more distance learning options with two-way video conferencing to our K - 12 schools, as well as investigate additional replication options for disaster recovery and business continuity, which we are currently unable to facilitate with existing access to bandwidth.

Being in a rural area of the state, the last mile charges for access to our nearest ICN POP have been a huge issue. With access to the higher capacities that the new ICN will be able to offer, Highland feels that it would be able to stay current with new requirements for courses, programs and job training for many years to come. Our current solution is, in reality, only good for a few

Assistant Secretary

March 5, 2010

Page 2

more year's worth of growth and use, after which time we will be required to explore new ways of acquiring and funding additional bandwidth.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-599-3514 or by email at joe.kanosky@highland.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe M. Kanosky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Joe M. Kanosky, Ph.D.
President

JMK:tag



HEARTLAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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,

Please consider this to be our letter of support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Located in Bloomington-Normal, we are the youngest community college in Illinois serving more than 5,200 credit students and offering a diverse selection of non-credit classes to more than 8,000 community members. Heartland Community College is an open admission resource for affordable higher education with a focus on student access. In today's world, bandwidth is becoming an increasingly prevalent mode of access, making it not only a general staple of our economy, but also a critical resource for Heartland's delivery of classes, programs and community services.

While the Illinois Century Network (ICN) has served as our primary provider of Internet service, we have had to go elsewhere for supplemental service - for significant additional cost - in order to satisfy our minimum bandwidth requirements. The ICN has simply not been able to provide the bandwidth we need. We are now, in fact, at a critical juncture. We need to decide whether to enter into a long term contract with a commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP). The availability of additional middle-mile fiber optic cable, and ultimately greater ICN bandwidth, would help our institution better serve both our current credit and non-credit students, as well as save the institution a tremendous amount of money.

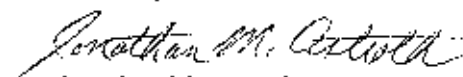
Reviewers of grant applications will undoubtedly read many letters of support touting accolades for potential partnerships between organizations, more alternatives for disaster recovery, stimulation of local economic climates, and more affordable access for all. Heartland concurs that these are indeed all benefits that will be afforded to our institution and community. However, we would like to also offer one very simple, tangible and immediate example of how additional middle-mile fiber optic cable will help the residents of our district.

In partnership with Illinois State University and both local school districts (Unit 5 and District 87), we host an annual "Students Involved with Technology" conference on our campus. This event draws hundreds of K-12 students to the College. The February 2010 conference went extremely well - except when it came time to establish video conference links to sister events in other Illinois communities. Network traffic swelled to fill every available ounce of our Internet capacity. This slowed down computer users throughout the conference and resulted in a subpar experience for the video conference participants. For a conference focused on technology, this was an unfortunate irony.

If Heartland Community College can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact Doug Minter, our Chief Information Officer at (309)268-8385 or by e-mail at doug.minter@heartland.edu. He will have my full support.

Thank you for your consideration of Illinois' grant application.

Sincerely,


Jonathan M. Astroth
President

1800 W. Zero Rd.
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 268-8000
TDD: (309) 268-8006
www.heartland.edu



HEARTLAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 5, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To whom it may concern:

Please consider this to be our letter of support for the establishment of the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) and confirmation of our co-applicant status for CIRBN's application for funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

In January 2010, the Heartland Community College Board of Trustees unanimously approved Heartland's participation as a BTOP grant co-applicant with final participation simply contingent upon confirmation of reasonable in-kind and monetary commitments. Based on our research, we are very optimistic that participation in CIRBN will yield a much better cost/benefit ratio than purchasing bandwidth from a commercial provider. Further, Heartland is fully prepared to provide facilities to house the equipment needed to be a distribution node or point-of-presence on CIRBN.

Heartland is committed to student success through access to higher education and excellence in teaching and learning. Bandwidth – both to the Internet and to resources available at other organizations – is not only a general staple of today's economy, but also critical to the delivery of Heartland's classes, programs and community services. On our campus today, a temporary outage in telephone service could go nearly unnoticed, but any outage in network or Internet connectivity is guaranteed to be exceptionally disruptive. CIRBN will provide new and more affordable pathways for Heartland and its constituents to the information superhighway, as well as many opportunities for collaboration with other organizations.

Reviewers of BTOP grant applications will undoubtedly read many letters of support touting accolades for potential partnerships between organizations, more alternatives for disaster recovery, stimulation of local economic climates, and more affordable access for all. Heartland concurs that these are indeed all benefits that will be afforded to central Illinois. However, we would like to also offer one very simple, tangible and immediate example of how CIRBN will help the residents of our district.

Heartland does not currently have adequate Internet bandwidth to meet the needs of users during peak periods of utilization and will soon need to decide whether to commit to an expensive, long-term contract with a commercial provider to resolve this problem. Meanwhile, in partnership with Illinois State University and both local school districts (Unit 5 and District 87), we host an annual "Students Involved with Technology" conference on our campus. This event draws hundreds of K-12 students to the College.

1500 W. 29th St.
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 268-8000
TDD (309) 268-8000
www.heartland.edu

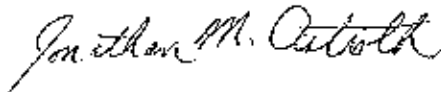
Page 2

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
March 5, 2010

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CIRBN will undoubtedly be an invaluable resource to our community and will certainly help Heartland better serve the residents of Community College District 540. We appreciate the efforts of staff at Illinois State University to facilitate the development of the CIRBN vision and the consideration of our grant application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan M. Astroth".

Jonathan M. Astroth
President



Harry S Truman College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

Lynn M. Walker, President

March 4, 2010

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

Dear Sir:


I am writing to you on behalf of Harry S Truman College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Truman College is a comprehensive community college that serves the most ethnically, linguistically and economically diverse communities in Chicago. We serve over 23,000 students per year and partner with numerous public schools, universities, community-based organizations and businesses to meet our mission.

Technology is critical to colleges. To deliver high quality, innovative, affordable and accessible instruction and services that prepare our students for a rapidly changing global economy, we must incorporate technology. Technology strengthens and enhances teaching and learning and increases access to education through distance learning and hybrid courses. Evaluation of a five-year instructional technology project at our college showed that 88% of students reported increased motivation to learn; 84% received much quicker feedback from instructors; 90% reported it was easier to follow their instructors' presentation of course material.

Currently, Truman is unable to implement wireless technology in a way that works for us due to inadequate bandwidth. The State of Illinois' project will address this critical issue for us and enable much wider use of technology for instruction and student services with far fewer problems and obstacles to overcome. The College is unable to pay for the bandwidth needed to address barriers to effective implementation of wireless and technology-enhanced instruction and service provision. A 2008 study by the Wi-Fi (wireless technology) Alliance showed that 90% of college students consider Wi-Fi to be as essential to their academic lives as classrooms and computers; 79% said college would be a lot harder without Wi-Fi access and over half said they wouldn't go to a college without free Wi-Fi. The proposed project will ensure equitable access to Wi-Fi for our students and community. It aligns with Truman's commitment to educational equity all of its students, most of whom are low-income, first generation and under-represented in postsecondary education.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding. You may contact me at (773) 907-4451 or via email at lwalker@ccc.edu.

Sincerely,



Lynn M. Walker
President

March 5, 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,

William Rainey Harper College is a comprehensive community college located in the northwest suburb of Chicago serving students from twenty three municipalities, with a district population of half a million. Enrollment for fall semester at Harper was over 15,000. For the past decade Harper has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for Internet service.

The availability of the Internet is crucial to the education provided at Harper College. From educational media used in the classroom, to learning management systems, online access is an integral component to learning at the college. Additionally, the function of enabling student self service for registration, bill pay, grade reporting, and club participation are also critical functions accessed via the Internet. As with most organizations Harper has experienced a continual need for increased bandwidth. Enhanced educational media available solely through online providers has caused an extreme increase in the demand placed on our connection. Without increased access our students will not be able to participate in this rich culture of online accessible information i.e. nursing videos and case simulations, library databases.

The cost to continually increase bandwidth to the required levels is prohibitive; this of course leaves our community underserved. If ICN were to act as not only ISP but also access provider with high speed service at an affordable price the community served by Harper would have improved access to a host of new educational opportunities.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847 925-6827 or by email at pbauer@Harpercollege.edu.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Bauer
Vice President of Information Technology
William Rainey Harper College

March 5, 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,

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Sincerely,



Patrick J. Bauer
Vice President of Information Technology
William Rainey Harper College

March 5, 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

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William Rainey Harper College is a comprehensive community college located in the northwest suburb of Chicago serving students from twenty three municipalities, with a district population of half a million. Enrollment for fall semester at Harper was over 15,000. For the past decade Harper has partnered with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for Internet service.

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If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847 925-6827 or by email at pbauer@harpercollege.edu.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Bauer
Vice President of Information Technology
William Rainey Harper College

GREENVILLE COLLEGE

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

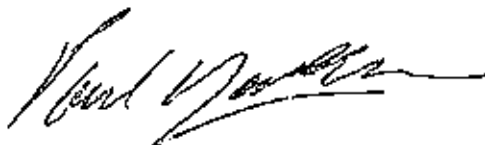
Dear Sir,

I am writing from Greenville College, a private liberal-arts college located in south central Illinois, in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The rural location of Greenville College provides very limited carrier options for data services, and the services that are available are offered at a relatively high cost, especially compared to the services available in more urban areas. Because of these factors, we rely heavily on the Illinois Century Network (ICN), operated by the State of Illinois, for the limited internet connectivity we do have. Our nearly 1500 traditional, graduate and adult students, as well as more than 200 faculty, staff and friends, utilize internet-based resources for a wide variety of academic and business-related pursuits.

Internet connectivity has become even more critical to our institution as we have embarked on an online learning initiative to expand our reach to college students anywhere in the world. Fast, reliable internet access is a must for us to effectively engage online learners and still continue to provide quality services to our campus community. If the State of Illinois were able to receive additional funding for the ICN, then the ICN would in turn be able to provide an increased level of affordable bandwidth to Greenville College and other rural institutions throughout the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 664-7072 or via email at paul.younger@greenville.edu.

Sincerely,



Paul Younker
Director of Information Technology



2 FRONTIER DRIVE

FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS 62837

618-842-3711

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

Frontier Community College was originally established to be the College beyond walls and has long been engaged in attempts to deliver high quality education and services for our students and community residents throughout the Southern Illinois region. One of the vehicles for the development of courses and programs has been to establish strategic partnerships to share information and resources. This approach has allowed us to emphasize quality education and increase access to our local community residents – not only at our physical campus but also at dozens of partner facilities located in eight outlying counties. However, the lack of affordable broadband options and capacity has proven to be a detriment to our ability to provide the types of programming that our communities need to deal with the economic realities that we all face. It is within this context, that we extend this letter of support on behalf of the Illinois Century Network's application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant.

As we have endeavored to expand our operations, and extend our online education and training efforts, we have had several discussions with local ISP's in an effort to expand our 3Mb connection. In those discussions, they tell me that a lack of middle-mile infrastructure is a considerable problem for them and a formidable obstacle to building a sustainable broadband network that we need to serve our communities. Further they claim that increases IP traffic has exacerbated bandwidth congestion and that existing revenue shortfalls are multiplied as the scale of operations increases. In short, they claim high-speed Internet service may not be sustainable in our local communities because of pure economics.

These are the reasons we applaud the Illinois Century Network's work goal of expanding broadband access to rural communities. By doing so, we believe that geographical and financial barriers can be overcome so that we can provide access to a wide range of educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for our District residents. Further, broadband access to new telecommunications technologies such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) will allow us to communicate better with 500+ adjunct faculty members and the 9000+ students that we have that are geographically separated from our main campus. Moreover, the prospect of having Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) to use Video Relay Services (VRS) to communicate more easily, quickly, and expressively with voice telephone users is an exciting prospect that will also enhance the quality of the education and training we could provide. Finally, with expanded broadband access, we could better support our local Hospital's efforts to transform their medical records processes and provide medical care to un-served and underserved populations through remote diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and consultations with specialists.

As such, the opportunity of continued work with the Illinois Century Network on the implementation of these grant initiatives will be of enormous benefit to our community residents and is an exciting prospect. We believe, this will significantly improve the quality of life in our community and as such, encourage the funding of this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Taylor
President, Frontier Community College



Computer Services
300 East College Avenue
Eureka, Illinois 61530-1500
309.467.6451 Office
309.467.6450 Fax
6490

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,

Eureka College is a not-for-profit four year Liberal Arts and Sciences College located in central Illinois. We have about 1000 users who need access to the Internet to support our academic mission. Currently we are connected to the Illinois Century Network. If the ICN fiber expansion project is funded via a stimulus grant, we will be able to get additional bandwidth at a very low rate to support our steadily increasing bandwidth needs to meet today's academic standards.

Our students' demands for Internet bandwidth steadily grow. Various instructional technologies also depend on greater bandwidth. Based on these growing bandwidth demands, we have to increase our Internet bandwidth by two to three folds really soon. However, this would not be possible unless we can find a very cost-effective solution. At our rural location, transportation and service charges are higher than those at metropolitan areas. Currently, we pay only the transportation charges to connect to the ICN. For other carriers, we have to pay an additional service fee in addition to the transportation charges. With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, we should be able to receive more bandwidth by paying only the transportation charges.

I think this project is extremely beneficial for all institutions connected to the ICN and the state of Illinois as a whole. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (309) 467-6434 or by email at kumara@eureka.edu. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kanaka Kumara, Ph.D.
IT Director and Professor of Computer Science



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:

I am writing to express Elgin Community College's full support for the Illinois Century Network application for federal stimulus funds. ECC has been a member of the ICN since its inception and depends on the high-speed internet network access service it provides to support many educational programs.

Broadband access to the internet is vital in providing educational opportunities to our students, as well as operations of the college. As of this year, over half of our credit hours are delivered in course formats that involve online activities. Online application, as well as course registration, has gone from being a novelty to the expected norm. Adequate, dependable internet connectivity is essential. To meet these needs, we purchase 16 megabits of bandwidth from the ICN to augment the 14 megabits we are allocated, based on our enrollment. This total just barely meets our needs.

Of particular concern and expense to ECC is the growing cost of the so called "last mile" connection to the Illinois Century network. We must provision and pay for the connection between our campuses and the ICN's nearest point of presence. This cost will continue to grow as we increase the capacity of our ICN connection to meet our growing needs due to enrollment increases and program expansion.

We enthusiastically support the ICN's broadband funds application in order to give the ICN end-to-end control over the network that is vital to community colleges across the state. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding.

Sincerely,

David Sam, PhD, JD
President



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,

Danville Area Community College strongly supports the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. DACC is an accredited public two-year community college providing higher education opportunities for youth and adults in East Central Illinois and serves about 8,000 students per year in over 1,500 unique courses. Our campus has been connected to the Illinois Century Network (ICN) for 10 years, since 2000; the service provided by ICN has been outstanding and gives us an extremely reliable connection which is monitored 24 hours a day by the ICN Network Operations Center.

Based on DACC's size, we are given 8 Mbps of Internet bandwidth from ICN at no cost. Naturally this does not cover the AT&T CSME circuit charge which is nearly \$1000 per month; this figure is not unreasonable in the present situation, but it is a significant cost for us. For the last few years, we have needed more bandwidth in the middle of the day when the most students are on campus and using the network, and the users can see a slowdown during this time of day. We have mitigated this somewhat through the installation of a caching proxy server; in addition to providing a campus-wide cache, it also prevents any one user or group of users from monopolizing the Internet connection to the detriment of other users. We also use Cisco-based bandwidth management to ensure that critical services always have bandwidth. However, such measures only go so far, and in late 2009 we opted to purchase an additional 2 Mbps from ICN at \$287 per month. We could certainly use much more, but the cost is an issue, especially at this time of statewide budget problems.

Acquiring bandwidth from commercial providers is technically an option, but cost is still an issue; in addition, for an academic institution such as DACC, quality of service and reliability is as important as quantity of bandwidth. If we could get direct access to the ICN network via fiber, we would save the monthly circuit costs and get a huge bandwidth increase at the same time, while still retaining ICN's outstanding level of service.



**Danville
Area
Community
College**

More bandwidth would benefit our campus in many ways. For example, web-based multimedia sources are increasingly being used as academic resources. In the past, some colleges have blocked access to services like YouTube to conserve bandwidth, but in recent times they have been forced to rethink this as more and more valuable and legitimate material is being made available through such services. Many of our instructors would like to place video material on the web, such as lectures, demonstrations, labs, et cetera; greater bandwidth would make this much easier to accomplish, and would allow many students to view the materials at once. More bandwidth would also make it possible for us to stream video of live events to off-campus users; currently that is not feasible for more than a few users at a time, and so we use third-party services to stream such videos. An increase in bandwidth could also facilitate the sharing of large volumes of data among colleges and other schools, and could foster more partnership and collaboration among them. The basic principle is that usage will tend to increase to occupy the available bandwidth; and a large increase in bandwidth would almost certainly lead to additional innovations that have not yet been considered, and to the use of technologies that have been impractical in the past.

Beyond the additional bandwidth for our own campus, we would also be very happy to serve as a community hub, and would wish to collaborate with local organizations to provide increased bandwidth to them. We view both area schools and local businesses as partners of Danville Area Community College in the success of Danville, Vermilion County, and our district. The provision of high-speed Internet access to residents of the area is also important to our community's success, and we would be glad to act as the point-of-presence for this area in order to facilitate residential bandwidth expansion.

Danville Area Community College sees this as a great opportunity to meet a substantial need for the entire state. If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

David L. Kietzmann
Vice President for Instruction
and Student Services
217.443.8771
dkietz@dacc.edu

Jefferson Davis Williams
Director of Computer and
Network Services
217.443.8871
jeff@dacc.edu



College of Lake County

Office of the President

Jerry W. Weber, Ph.D.

President

VOICEL

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March 5, 2010

Mr. Lawrence H. Strickling
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 Application

Dear Mr. Strickling:

Board of Trustees:

Richard A. Anderson

Philip J. Corrigan, Ph.D.

William M. Griffin

Amanda D. Howland

John W. Lumber

Barbara D. Olschager

Thomas J. Schwartz

Rika Hudson

Student Trustee

The College of Lake County (CLC), a comprehensive community college located in Grayslake, Illinois (northwest of Chicago) serving 18,500 students and the diverse educational needs of Lake County, Illinois, supports the enclosed proposal as submitted by the Illinois Century Network to increase bandwidth capacity and connectivity throughout Illinois.

CLC has been a partner with the Illinois Century Network (ICN) since 1999, providing invaluable Internet access to the College for supporting education in the classroom and online courses to the community. Broadband is critical to community colleges throughout the state due to the ever-increasing richness of content accessible via the Internet. The evolution of simple text data services to streaming audio and video, combined with more advanced interactive services, means enhanced education in all disciplines. Services to students such as advising, counseling, and financial assistance are also evolving to take advantage of greater access. Increased bandwidth capacity is critical to the success of higher education and workforce preparation.

The College of Lake County's bandwidth requirements continue to expand along with the costs of Internet services. This proposal to construct a fiber backbone network extending fiber to all Illinois'48 community colleges is critical to curtail these costs while increasing bandwidth. CLC's bandwidth is normally 100% utilized when classes are in session, and access to the Internet is heavily degraded for most users in the College due to congestion. This initiative will alleviate this problem and the College of Lake County is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Girard W. Weber, Ph.D.

President

Robert L. Breuder, President(630) 942-2200
FAX (630) 858-2869
breuder@cod.edu

March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds
Application

Dear Sir,

College of DuPage supports the State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant application. The College served 59,444 individual students in fiscal year 2009. The most recent Fall semester saw an increase in excess of 9% in credit seeking students. Courses with an online format comprised the single largest segment of growth.

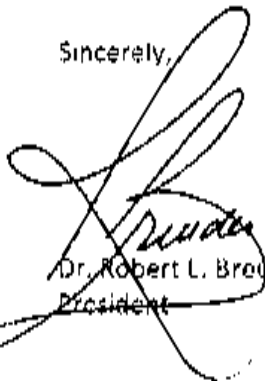
Illinois Century Network (ICN) has been a primary provider of network connectivity to the College since 1999. The network provides low cost access for the College to the internet and to other colleges within Illinois. College of DuPage has used the ICN service to provide access to video conference presentations and classes to participants at other community colleges in the state, as well as general internet access.

College of DuPage spends in excess of \$100,000 annually to vendors of the "last mile". Current bandwidth will be inadequate within two years to support the growth in online access needs for teaching and learning. College of DuPage supports credit, continuing education and professional development programs through online formats.

The College is also in need of expanded network bandwidth to develop a commercially viable disaster recovery capability for its administrative and learning environments. Failure to secure cost effective bandwidth in support of these needs will impair the College's ability to serve the local communities.

If we can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact Chuck Carrier at (630) 942-2790 or by email at carrier@cod.edu.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert L. Breuder
President



Charles W. Carrier
Vice President, Information Technology



Office of Information Technology

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,

The City Colleges of Chicago needs high speed broadband to keep up with the ever-changing technology demands for the academic environment and to continue to provide for the constantly-growing public access computing at each of our campuses.

Before we can upgrade any of the current 100 Mbps links to our main campuses and other locations, the current 1 Gbps pipe connecting them to our central office needs be upgraded to higher speed, however, AT&T, our current broadband provider, cannot provide such an upgrade at this time. Therefore, we may soon be facing a challenge to meet our students' educational and general public's growing technology and Internet access needs.

According to our plans, this and at least one more link on our metropolitan network needs to grow to 10 Gbps within the next two years. In five years we will need several 100 Gbps links and at least ten 10 Gbps links. That technology is not currently available to us. Furthermore, we are currently spending a total of over \$525,000 annually for connectivity and Internet service to all our locations and the bandwidth upgrades would significantly increase this cost. We need much cheaper and faster connections between our locations and to the Internet, so that we can educate our students in a modern academic environment and make them capable to perform well on new demanding jobs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kathy P. Linenberger'.

Kathy Linenberger
Vice Chancellor/CIO
City Colleges of Chicago
226 W Jackson
Chicago, IL 60606



March 11, 2010

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

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

Dear Assistant Secretary,

Waubonsee Community College is writing to express its support for the State of Illinois Century Network's application for Round 2 BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) funding. Waubonsee Community College is a public, comprehensive community college organized in 1966 as mandated by the Illinois Community College Act to provide education and training services for individuals in portions of Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, LaSalle and Will counties of District 516. Kane and Kendall counties represent two of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Enrollment increases are now in the 8-12% range each term. This semester we have 12,000 students and 4,000 seats in online classes.

Waubonsee Community College has been the recipient of broadband service from the State of Illinois through the Illinois Century Network for 10 years. The Illinois Century Network has provided a cost-effective way for the college to access the Internet. The World Wide Web plays a critical part in providing distance learning, online classes, academic services, campus management and operations, and communications. The Internet is employed in Smart classrooms, computing labs and is made available to students and the Waubonsee community.

Greater bandwidth would provide more opportunities to supply a superior service to students, faculty and staff with the corresponding enhanced performance and accessibility. This includes the following:

- Expanded instructional opportunities and the ability to share resources between Illinois community colleges and other educational institutions of higher learning in the state and in the nation.
- Two-way interactive instruction and collaboration among higher education institutions to provide learners in Illinois with many more opportunities for additional and diverse programming.
- A wider array of program offerings made available to rural and other areas in the state with fewer resources.
- Economically disadvantaged learners from the college's large urban area and many rural areas would have campus access to meet online and traditional learning needs.

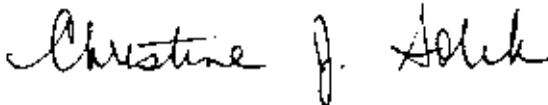
Our current bandwidth limits the college's ability to provide high quality streaming video to enhance online and traditional classes. This video capability would enhance the learning experience by providing more effective communication between students and faculty. The college needs more bandwidth in order to take full advantage of the benefits provided by the many new technologies continually being developed.

Accessibility is one of the college's core values: "We remove barriers to learning formed by time, geography, education, culture, experience or beliefs to provide a full range of quality educational opportunities for all who can benefit." Insufficient bandwidth limits our ability to respond to the increasing demand for online classes and distance learning. Most of our students, both full- and part-time, are employed. Online classes provide accessibility to learning opportunities for people with already busy schedules and lives.

This grant would allow Illinois to employ fiber optics for greater connectivity and an increase in the amount of bandwidth available to this college and others in the state. It would allow Illinois to take ownership of this communication pipeline which would, in turn, be there for the sharing of classes and curriculum across the state. It would allow Waubonsee Community College to spend its funds on technological advances in learning rather than outside broadband carriers and focus on student success.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (630) 466-2300 or by e-mail at csobek@waubonsee.edu.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine J. Sobek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine J. Sobek, Ed.D.
President