Broadband Illinois NW Regional e-Team
13 November 2012 Meeting
Notes from the Discussion on Moving our Region Forward

CAPACITY

1. Can we meet future needs?
   "It's also about connectivity, not just fiber"
   - increasing demands of students, especially with new programs designed to connect more low-income youth through grant opportunities
   - increase of online reporting, primarily in public sector
   - medical records online 2015 mandate
   - Bridging the literal gaps of critical agriculture industry. i.e., individual farmers with long distances between connections

2. Redundancy (backup) needs of educational, medical and other institutions that "can't fail"

3. Partnerships: How do we tie/link them together? Develop an "ABCs of how to make this all work."
   - Agriculture
   - Broadband Providers
   - Chambers of Commerce
   - Convention & Visitors Bureaus
   - Economic Development Professionals
   - Educational institutions
   - Healthcare industry
   - Regional planning organizations

EDUCATION OF INTENDED USERS

- How do we "connect in" critical users such as municipalities, counties, chambers of commerce?
  - Need to show value
  - E.g., manpower versus technology costs
  - Explore the southern Illinois example that began the whole effort in Illinois
- Businesses need to understand and recognize value of equipment and access necessary for broadband excellence. "What's in it for me?"
- New builds in communities; developers and municipalities need to understand the role and process of broadband physical infrastructure before ground is broken
- "Getting the most bang for the buck" for businesses/public sector in decisionmaking on technology and connectivity
  - Keep in mind that providers do need to make a profit
  - Solid quotes on small or "last mile" connections to fiber is important
  - Standards in/standardized pricing
  - Need multiple connectivity options and information on how to compare
  - Develop a better, more direct infrastructure resource listing
- Getting the citizen ready for broadband
- Computer training of the public on web, software, etc. as used through broadband

DEVELOP A REGIONAL PLAN

- Build a regional foundation for better success in future grant opportunities
- Build and prioritize a regional direction for broadband use, development and education
- Develop a foundation so that any potential future projects can be "shovel ready"
- Reference previous regional discussion notes to insure we're capturing the full complement of discussion (Notes from the winter/spring meeting will be provided)
- Create a working group to meet (in-person or via technology) in January to begin planning process and set the agenda for the February Quarterly meeting in Princeton
- Consider creating committees based on industry clusters ("cut through the verticals" of issues to cover needs and planning in broader strokes)
- Ask for volunteers for the working group from those who were unable to attend this meeting
- Limit working group to 12 members