



News Release

ACUTA APPLAUDS FCC FOR RECOGNIZING ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS' NEED FOR BROADBAND

LEXINGTON, Kentucky, March 17, 2010 – ACUTA commends FCC Chairman Genachowski and the Commission for recognizing the importance of providing community anchor institutions with high-capacity broadband connections in the National Broadband Plan released yesterday.

As a member of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, ACUTA has participated in the efforts of the Coalition to improve the broadband capabilities of schools, libraries, and health care providers so that they can enhance the quality and availability of the essential services they provide to the public and serve underserved and unserved populations more effectively.

“A Unified Community Anchor Network (UCAN) would be a major step forward in providing high-speed Internet access to the students, researchers, and faculty at our medium-sized public university,” says Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library at Longwood University and Chairman of ACUTA’s Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee. “High-speed access through the UCAN would help Longwood University and other institutions like ours reach out to provide vital educational and information services to the populations we serve, supporting economic development and job growth in our region.”

A nationwide network connecting anchor institutions would help provide affordable high-speed broadband connectivity to serve communities throughout the nation. It would:

- Provide broadband connections most efficiently by aggregating demand and sharing capacity;
- Be open to interconnection by other providers and users;
- Create jobs and generate economic growth by supporting the construction of additional broadband capacity;
- Enable community anchor institutions to better meet the needs of people who will benefit most from public access to broadband, including students, low-income consumers who cannot afford a high-speed connection at home, job seekers, rural health care facilities, and many others.

- Expand the range and services of existing local and regional non-profit networks, and enable them to interconnect with national backbone networks such as Internet2 and National LambdaRail;
- Work with private sector providers.

Funding has always been a stumbling block for those who would provide universal affordable broadband access. The National Broadband Plan released today is an important first step, that paves the way for the FCC and Congress to invest in community anchor institutions, which are uniquely positioned to maximize the return on this vital investment.

ACUTA, the Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in higher Education, is dedicated to serving the needs of higher education information communications technology professionals, with nearly 2,000 individual members at some 750 colleges and universities. ACUTA is proud to be a part of the SHLB Coalition, which represents 57 different public and private organizations. The Coalition was founded in June 2009 to highlight the urgent need these organizations have for high-capacity and affordable broadband connections.

“With the FCC’s support for the concept of a UCAN, we are excited as we prepare to turn the concept of universal high speed broadband access into reality in the months and years ahead,” says Jeri Semer, ACUTA Executive Director. “We expect that many colleges and universities will look forward to actively participating in this significant initiative.”

About ACUTA

ACUTA, the Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education, is an international non-profit educational association serving colleges and universities. Its core purpose is to support higher education information communications technology professionals in contributing to the achievement of the strategic mission of their institutions. ACUTA represents nearly 2000 individuals at some 750 institutions of higher education, with members ranging from small schools and community colleges to the very largest U.S. institutions. ACUTA’s corporate affiliate members represent all categories of communications technology vendors serving the college/university market. For more information, visit www.acuta.org or call 859-278-3338.

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