

FOIA MARKER

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OA/ID Number: 20228
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Folder Title:
Digital Divide 11/1999 [binder] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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DIGITAL DIVIDE

11/99--

PSA campaign:

Goal of the PSA campaign is to persuade more low-income youth to become technologically literate and to master the use of the Internet and other information technologies.

A key message point would be the economic opportunities available to people with IT skills - e.g. there are 80 openings (or whatever the number is) in the NBA and hundreds of thousands of openings in the IT industry.

1. **Networks:**

- BET (Bob Johnson)
- MTV (Viacom)
- VH1 (Viacom)
- Major networks - work through NAB?

→ ESPN ←
My 6ix Box People

2. **Celebrities**

- Magic Johnson
- Rebecca Lobo
- Sinbad
- CAA Foundation (Wendy Smith)

3. **Ad agency** — Mandy Grawald

4. **Coordination**

- Kaiser Foundation

5. **Support**

- TechNet?

Digital
Divide

I – POTENTIAL PLENARY PANELS

1. Can the Economy Grow Forever?

Paul Volcker
Paul Romer
James Galbraith / Richard Freeman / Robert Kuttner
Carly Fiorina
Jack Welch

2. Stock Market Volatility and the U.S. Economy

Warren Buffet
John Taylor / Martin Feldstein
Abby Cohen
Robert Shiller
John Doerr / Mary Meeker

3. Closing the Global Divide, What Comes First: Health, Wealth, and Technology

Bill Gates
Fernando Espuelas
Kofi Annan
Nick Stern / Michael Kremer
Carol Bellamy

II – ALTERNATIVE PLENARY PANELS

4. Is a Debt-Free U.S. Government Good for America's Economic Future?

Henry Kaufman
Jeff Faux / Robert Borsage / Robert Kuttner
Pete Peterson
Arminio Fraga

5. All for One? Who is Being Left Behind in the New Economy?

Larry Katz
William Julius Wilson
Laurie Bassie or women's group or non-profit
Labor leader

6. Oil / Future of Energy

Daniel Yergin
Amory Lovins or John Sawhill or another environmentalist
Bill Ford
Peter Bijur

III – POTENTIAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH POINT-COUNTERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

(Issues above not chosen for panels)

1. Reforming the IMF and World Bank

Stanley Fischer
Allan Meltzer

2. Globalization and Jobs

Tom Friedman
Jay Mazur or another labor leader

3. Have We Had Too Much Debt Reduction?

Robert Kuttner
Robert Rubin

4. Is the New Economy Good for Public Service, Philanthropy, and Civic Involvement?

Colin Powell
Patty Stonesifer

5. Next Stages in the Internet and Its Impact on the Economy

Hal Varian / Louis Gerstner
Esther Dyson / Reed Hundt

March 20, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO GENE SPERLING

FROM: TOM KALIL, GIGI GEORGES, AND NATASHA BILIMORIA

SUBJECT: KEY DIGITAL DIVIDE DECISIONS

Below is an outline of some of the key decisions that need to be made and actions that must be taken in the next week and a half in order to stay on schedule for our overall Digital Divide trip planning.

You should be aware that while the site selection process has not yet been finalized, we have been working with agencies for the last week to obtain event venues for all of the sites that are currently being considered. [Note: this includes the cities/communities that were included in the memo to the President as well as a number of other backup sites. See attached for full list].

1. Finalize Sites

- We have been vetting all of the first tier and backup sites with Political, IGA, Leg Affairs, and Agencies. We expect to have final comments by COB tomorrow.
- Once we receive this information, we will outline cities that clearly vet, clearly don't vet, and those where a judgement call needs to be made. We will provide you with this information on Wednesday.
- After your review, we recommend that you discuss this information at larger digital divide meeting that is currently scheduled for Thursday at 1:00pm.
- Once locations are finalized, we will name lead agency coordinators to help us coordinate sites. We anticipate the following assignments:

--**East Palo Alto: Department** of Education

--**Native American site:** SBA

--**Detroit (or other urban site):** HUD

--**Rural North Carolina:** Department of Commerce

2. Establish event venues at finalized sites

- As we mentioned earlier, we have been working with the agencies to obtain event venues for all of the possible sites we are currently considering.
- Once final site selection has been made, we will review this list to narrow down the best venue options for each site. We will provide you with this list for your review soon after final site selection has been made.

- After you have reviewed these options, we could sit down with staff from Scheduling and Communications to discuss how these venues fit with our message and goals for each event.
- Based on this working group meeting, we will provide with options for your review.
- You could then take these ideas to next week's larger Digital Divide meeting for discussion.

3. Map out event plans for each site

- Based on the event ideas we incorporated in the President's memo, we, along with Patrick, will build on those event ideas. We will provide you with these ideas by the weekend. This memo will include additional ideas for you on how to secure celebrity participation for the East Palo Alto event.
- Based on your review of these ideas, we recommend that you discuss them in next week's larger Digital Divide meeting.

4. Finalize CEO invitation list

- We have already either invited or are extremely close to inviting [**Note:** Carly Fiorina and HP senior executives will be in Hawaii]:
 - ✓ Ted Waitt, Gateway,
 - ✓ Steve Case AOL,
 - ✓ Irwin Jacobs, Qualcomm,
 - ✓ Michael Armstrong, AT&T,
 - ✓ Jerry Yang, Yahoo!
- We anticipate that the following people may also be invited for some part of the travel:
 - ✓ George Clayton Fatheree and Kaliel Isaza co-founders of Govworks.com [**Note:** you are meeting with them on Wednesday]
 - ✓ Robert Johnson, BET
 - ✓ Lou Gerstner, IBM
 - ✓ Michael Capellas, Compaq
 - ✓ Roberta Katz, TechNet
 - ✓ John Doerr and Kim Smith
 - ✓ Craig Barrett (and/or Andy Grove), Intel
 - ✓ Ed Whitacre, SBC Communications
 - ✓ Bill Gates, Microsoft
 - ✓ Patty Stonesifer Co-chair and President Gates Foundation
 - ✓ Bernie Ebbers, MCI Worldcom
 - ✓ John Chambers, Cisco Systems
 - ✓ Eric Benhamou, 3Com

- ✓ Michael Dell, Dell Computers
 - ✓ Nick Grouf, PeoplePC
 - ✓ Eric Schmidt, Novell
 - ✓ Pierre Omidyar, Co-founder, E-Bay,
 - ✓ F. Duane Ackerman Bell South
 - ✓ Zoë Baird, Markle Foundation
 - ✓ Celebrities involved in PSAs for East Palo Alto event.
- We need to think about including others on this list.
 - By the end of this week, many of our staff discussions with representatives will be near completion. We will provide you with a list of people you should invite.

5. Finalize Congressional invitation list

- We asked Leg. Affairs to provide us with a legislative invitation plan that includes potential invitees based on:
 - ✓ Involvement in legislative initiatives
 - ✓ Expression of strong interest in both the issue and the trip.
- We have also asked them to make a preliminary list of members whose districts might be represented based on the full set of location options we are currently considering.
- Meeting scheduled with leg affairs to review plan on Tuesday

6. Develop invitation list for Non-profits, etc.

- Considering that Jesse Jackson, Hugh Price, Al From and Tom Donohue have been part of past New Markets trips, should we assume they will accompany the President throughout the trip? If so, we will put them on your call list specifically to invite them.
- We will provide you with a list of other community and civic leaders that you may want to consider for the trip.

7. Determine Use of Technology at Event Sites

- Kalil has drafted a memo that outlines various technology options (see attached).
- We will also meet with Communications and Scheduling to explore all of our possibilities in this area.

8. Conduct City/local outreach

- Once we have finalized our sites, IGA will identify key local people to be invited. This list should include state and local elected officials, key community and labor leaders, CEOs (OPL will be of help for this) from the area.

9. Work with Speechwriting

- We have had preliminary discussions with Lowell Weiss.
- He will attend the larger group meetings from now on (beginning Thursday). He has already started attending the agency meetings.
- We will make sure to carve out time for you to sit down with him to give him further guidance.

10. Determine best time/way to release trip destinations to the press

- We will have preliminary conversations with Patrick to map out a strategy this week.

SITE OPTIONS FOR DIGITAL DIVIDE TRIP

TOP TIER SITES (all being vetted by Political, IGA, Leg Affairs, Agencies)

East Palo Alto, CA
New Mexico (Native American)
Detroit, MI
Rural North Carolina

BACK UP LOCATIONS (all being vetted by Political, IGA, Leg Affairs, Agencies)

Native American Sites
Arizona

Rural Sites
Central Appalachia Region, VA
Evansville, IN
Louisiana
Pennsylvania
Western MA

Urban Sites
Cleveland, OH
Minneapolis/St Paul, MN
Boston, MA

March 20, 2000

Draft March 19, 2000

Use of technology for New Markets trip

Note: This technology is still far from "bullet proof." We've had technical difficulties with the use of technology in the past, and will continue to do so. Even Bill Gates has had his demos crash. There are also risks associated with security and hackers, as the President's cnn.com interview showed.

East Palo Alto

Basic scenario

1. Conversation with the President is broadcast on the Internet using streaming video and audio either:
 - Generally
 - Select schools and community technology centers
2. Transcript of event is developed in near-real time for sites that don't have adequate bandwidth for streaming-video
3. Allow students from selected schools or CTCs to send e-mail questions to the President
 - Questions are not posted on the Internet or in a chat room, they are screened and forwarded to a moderator -- who can pose them to the President or one of the people on stage.

Possible add-on

Allow low-income students from local schools to show multimedia projects that they have developed -- as part of a "Technology Innovation Challenge Grant" that the Administration has supported.

Not recommended

Real-time video-conferencing over the Internet to multiple sites. Too unreliable -- and usually have major problems with sound.

Detroit

- President could see demonstration of Internet applications in Community Technology Centers -- such as job search, local information, GED equivalence, etc.

New Mexico/Indian Country

- DPC is exploring satellite hook-ups to remote sites.

- If the site we are at has Internet access -- President could also see demonstration of
- New web site that combines federal agency efforts in Native American economic development

Rural North Carolina

May be able to see demonstration of wireless broadband if we give companies enough lead time and if there is a cell site that is close enough.

Could see site hooked up to North Carolina Information Highway - depending on site location



allstarcharity.com

is an entirely new kind of charity venture, which combines the power of the internet with the universal appeal of celebrities to raise monies and awareness for a wide variety of non-profit organizations around the country.

- ◆ Ongoing, online celebrity charity auctions
- ◆ 100% non-profit venture: allstarcharity.com is being registered as a 501(c)(3) and all costs are being underwritten by Sony Music Entertainment
- ◆ 100% of proceeds go to the celebrity's "charity of choice"
- ◆ Goals: to raise monies and awareness for non-profit organizations
- ◆ All areas of entertainment: movies, music, television, sports, models, politics
- ◆ Scheduled to launch in May 2000

Examples of Celebrity Donated Items

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Willie Mays Package: Tickets to the All-Star Game and dinner with Willie afterward.
<i>Benefits: Say Hey Foundation</i>◆ Tony Bennett Signed Lithograph
<i>Benefits: Juvenile Diabetes Foundation</i>◆ Tap Lesson with Gregory Hines and a pair of signed shoes.
<i>Benefits: CaP Cure</i>◆ Guitar signed by Roger Waters.
<i>Benefits: Children in Crisis</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ "Slight of Hand" Magic Lesson with David Copperfield and personal tour of his Private Museum.
<i>Benefits: Project Magic</i>◆ Hollywood Hair & Make-up Session by José Eber
<i>Benefits: Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation</i>◆ Clinic with Beach Volleyball Olympic Gold Medalist, Kent Steffes
<i>Benefits: Heal the Bay</i> |
|---|---|



ALLSTARCHARITY.COM

FORMS ALL STAR ADVISORY BOARD

**New Online Venture Scheduled To Launch Spring 2000;
100 Percent of Donations To Benefit Celebs' "Charity of Choice"**

LOS ANGELES, January 24, 2000 - allstarcharity.com, a new online venture created and operated under Sony Music Entertainment's new technology area and scheduled to launch in Spring 2000, today announced the formation of its advisory board and named eight leaders from the entertainment, business and Internet communities.

Music industry veteran Bobby Colomby will serve as Chairman of the Advisory Board. Joining him are producer/director Martha Coolidge, Westfield America President Richard Green, actor Michael Keaton, Warner Bros. President of Worldwide Music Gary LeMel, Ogilvy & Mather Chairman & CEO Gerald McGee, New York Times film critic Elvis Mitchell, and Credit Suisse First Boston Digital Media head Rob Wiesenthal.

"The Internet is leveling the playing field, opening new doors and enabling a whole new way to be charitable. allstarcharity.com brings the power of the Internet together with the many, many wonderful charitable organizations and the individuals who desire to support them. Speaking on behalf of the advisory board, we are pleased to lend our support to such a breakthrough effort," said Chairman of the Advisory Board Bobby Colomby.

The new allstarcharity.com site promises to raise the bar on online charity participation and will use the ubiquity of the Internet to raise awareness and money for a wide variety of charitable organizations. The venture will leverage the collective involvement of celebrities, combined with the increasing opportunity of Internet-enabled charitable donations. One hundred percent of the donations raised will go to the participating celebrities' "charity of choice." The venture intends to register as a private foundation under section 5.01(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The advisory board will meet regularly to collaborate on the new site's vision, development and creative direction.

"The collective talent, creativity and business savvy of this stellar advisory board will be a crucial asset to the success of this new online venture and the many charitable organizations it will benefit," said Xandra LeCarner, director of allstarcharity.com. "We look forward to actively working with the board to gain their creative input and direction that will make this venture a success."

About the allstarcharity.com Advisory Board

Bobby Colomby began his career as a founding member, leader and producer of the legendary band, Blood, Sweat & Tears. Since then, Colomby's career has been deeply rooted in the music industry with stints both in-front of the camera and behind the scenes at the major label companies. During his tenure at Capitol Records, Epic Records and Sony Music Entertainment, Colomby has been responsible for signing, developing and launching new talent, ranging from the Jacksons and America to Richard Marx, Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis.

Additionally, Colomby television stints include serving as the on-air music reporter for "Entertainment Tonight," host of "In Person From The Palace," as well as co-host and music commentator for the "CBS Morning Program." Currently, Colomby is the Chairman of Signal 21 Records, a music company distributed by Navarre Entertainment, and is a senior creative development consultant with Sony Music Entertainment's new technology area.

Martha Coolidge is widely recognized as a director with a passion for directing good stories and a gift for working with and discovering talented actors. Recently, she directed "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" for HBO, which garnered Golden Globe nominations for two of its stars Halle Berry and Klaus-Mari Brandauer, as well as for the film itself. Her latest directing project, also for HBO was one of the three segments of "If These Walls Could Talk, Part II." Her feature films include "Rambling Rose", "Valley Girl" and "Out To Sea". On the producing front, Coolidge is exec-producing "Rip Girls" for the Disney Channel. Coolidge, who was the recent recipient of the DGA's top Robert B. Aldrich award, currently co-chairs the DGA's Creative Rights Committee and serves as the First Vice President of the DGA.

Richard Green is President of Westfield America Inc. (NYSE:WEA), the nation's fourth largest publicly traded regional mall real estate investment trust. Green joined the Westfield Group in 1980 and shares leadership of Westfield America with Peter Lowy. Together they oversee all aspects of management, redevelopment, leasing, marketing and the operations of Westfield America portfolio of 38 U.S. regional and super-regional shopping centers. Green also is a Trustee of the International Council of Shopping Centers and serves on the Board of Directors of UCLA and the Armand Hammer Museum and Cultural Center.

Michael Keaton gained national recognition as the manic morgue attendant in Ron Howard's 1982 film "Night Shift". He followed with starring roles in the comedy "Mr. Mom," the cult gangster spoof "Johnny Dangerously," a recovering mental patient in the comedy "Dream Team" and the classic "Much Ado About Nothing." In 1988, he starred concurrently as a young man battling drugs and alcohol addiction in the acclaimed drama "Clean and Sober" and as the comic yet horrifying title character in Tim Burton's wildly inventive "Beetlejuice". For both performances, he earned a Best Actor Award from the National Society of Film Critics. Keaton also has starred in "Batman," "Desperate Measures," "My Life," "One Good Copy," "The Paper," had cameo appearances in "Jackie Brown" and "Out of Sight," and recently produced "Body Shots". Keaton serves on the board of American Rivers, an environmental non-profit organization.

Gary LeMel joined Warner Bros. in 1987 and now serves as President of Worldwide Music for Warner Bros. Film and production executive on the studio's music-related pictures. Since coming to Warner Bros., LeMel has put his stamp on such popular and acclaimed soundtrack collections as "The Big Chill", "The Bodyguard", "City of Angels", "Practical Magic", "Natural Born Killers", "You've Got Mail" and many others. LeMel began his career as a classically trained pianist, later making a name as a talented bass player. LeMel stepped behind the microphone at 17, touring with legendary jazz singer Anita O'Day, and later signing as a solo artist to Vee Jay Records.

Gerald McGee joined Ogilvy & Mather in New York in 1968 where he worked in multiple capacities as a Producer, Writer, Copy Supervisor, and Copy Group Head. He was promoted to Associate Creative Director in 1979 and then to Creative Director the following year. In February 1984, McGee was appointed Managing Director of the Los Angeles Office and in December 1999 he was named Chairman and CEO. He was elected to the U.S. Board of Directors in 1985, and was named a member of the North American Operating Committee, which oversees all of Ogilvy & Mather operations throughout the United States and Canada. In 1998, the Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide Board of Directors elected McGee a member.

Elvis Mitchell was recently appointed to the prestigious position of film critic for the New York Times. Mitchell previously reviewed films for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and the Detroit Free Press. For the last 15 years, he also has been an entertainment critic for "Weekend Edition with Scott Simon" on National Public Radio. He was also host of the film-related interview program "The Treatment" for KCRW, Santa Monica-Calif.'s public radio station, and the host of the Independent Film Channel's "Independent Focus" program. In addition, Mitchell has written on movies for Rolling Stone, GQ, and Interview magazines.

Rob Wiesenthal is Managing Director and head of the Digital Media investment banking effort for Credit Suisse First Boston. Wiesenthal started his career as a member of First Boston's burgeoning M&A group in 1986, later joining the firm's Media Group in 1992. Since then he has advised on numerous financing and M&A transactions for a broad range of media and entertainment clients including companies such as Seagram, Time Warner, Sony, MacAndrews & Forbes, Cox Communications and the New York Times. Most notably, he advised Seagrams on its \$5.7 billion acquisitions of MCA Inc. and TCI on its merger with Liberty Media.

About Sony Music Entertainment

Sony Music Entertainment (SME), a leading global producer, manufacturer, and marketer of recorded music and video, has a presence in 60 countries. In the past year alone, SME has aggressively expanded its online presence with key investments in such leading online companies as ArtistDirect, AudioBase, Digital On-Demand, Exactis, i3 Mobile, Intertainer, Lastminute.com, LAUNCH Media, Listen.com, OnRadio, Platform.net, Quintus, Spinner.com, TalkCity and Yupi.com. The company has also acquired leading email publishers InfoBeat and EMAZING.com.



VIA FACSIMILE: 202-456-2878

February 23, 2000

Gene B. Sperling
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Gene:

Just checking in with you. Hope all is well. Wanted you to know about some updates from our end. We have some new donors, including Bob Dylan and Sarah Michele Gellar. Additionally, we are hoping to partner with a wonderful organization called "Race to Erase MS", which has a very large annual event here in Los Angeles. The event could be a great way to launch our site. I'll keep you posted.

In a nutshell, things are looking great, and we are very excited about the possibility of including you in the project. I can be reached at home at (310) 475-6816 or at my office, 310-449-2211, if you have any comments or questions. I look forward to speaking with you.

Best regards.

Bobby Colomby



VIA FACSIMILE: 202-456-2878

February 16, 2000

Gene B. Sperling
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Gene:

It was an absolute pleasure meeting you this past weekend, and speaking with you today. I am thrilled with the possibility of including "your boss" in our wonderful project. As promised, here is some additional information about us and about our Board of Advisors.

One of the best parts of this wonderful project is that all proceeds go to the celebrity's "charity-of-choice"; there are no hidden administrative costs. Our launch is scheduled to occur this Spring, and we plan to announce our project shortly.

Our auction items range from signed memorabilia, such as autographed scripts, props, CDs and sporting equipment, to concert tickets and backstage VIP passes. We also have some great "live/once-in-a-lifetime experiences" such as "A Week at Spring Training" with Willie Mays, a "Sleight-of-Hand Magic Lesson" from David Copperfield, and a "One-on-One Tap Lesson" from Gregory Hines.

I can be reached at home at (310) 475-6816 or at my office, 310-449-2211, if you have any comments or questions. I very much look forward to our next conversation.

Best regards.

Bobby Colomby

MEMORANDUM

To: Gene Sperling
CC: Lael Brainard
From: Timothy Punke
Date: March 27, 2000
Re: Webcast to Cambridge, England

You are scheduled to participate in a Webcast tomorrow (direct to Cambridge, England) from 12:30-1:15. (See attached invite.) You will be part of a panel discussion on Financial, Social and Political Globalization. The moderator plans on asking you general questions about the most current events, including China PNTR.

If you choose to discuss China or are asked about China, you may want to make some of the following points on our campaign, as well as events in the last week (see also Malcolm's broader TPs for Lael's talk today, attached):

Campaign and Overall Message

- The next 2 months will be intense. President is pushing for a vote by Memorial Day. We all have a lot of work to do.
- This is the most important trade battle this year -- perhaps of this Administration, and it is at the very top of our priorities. The President is devoting an incredible amount of time and effort to this. He spoke about China in the State of the Union and at Davos. He gave a major speech this month at Johns Hopkins, and prior to that he held an event with the High-Tech Industry. (See list of POTUS and Administration activities, attached.)
- We in the Administration are working every single day on this issue. We are up on the Hill, speaking at events, and meeting with both the business community and other interested groups.
- Most important point in this fight -- Many do not understand that Congress's vote on PNTR is not a vote on whether China gets into the WTO -- it is a vote on whether American companies, workers, and farmers will benefit when China enters. China will complete its bilateral negotiations with the European Union and its other trading partners and get into the WTO eventually. When they do however, we will not be able to take advantage of the great deal we negotiated if we do not grant China PNTR.

Recent Events

- **Taiwan:** Taiwan's President-elect Chen offered talks with Beijing and expressed support for both China's and Taiwan's accession to the WTO. China appeared to tone down its pre-election rhetoric.
- **Human Rights:** In Geneva, Secretary Albright made a strong case on behalf of our human rights resolution condemning China's human rights practices. The vote will be in April.

[Gene -- for your background only, you should be aware that we do not expect much support from the EU while their trade talks are ongoing, and it is unclear how supportive they will be after that]

- **SPS/Agriculture:** The Chinese last week issued the necessary regulations to implement our agriculture SPS agreement on wheat, citrus, and meat. We are urging China to follow up with purchases.

Interesting High Tech Stats [NOTE that there will be several high tech CEOs in the audience]

- U.S. high technology industry exports to China have increased over 500 percent between 1990 and 1998. U.S. exports of communications equipment grew over 900% from 1990-1998. China's information technology equipment market is estimated to be growing at 20-40% annually.
- Some analysts predict China will become the world's second largest personal computer market by the end of this year, and the third largest semiconductor market by 2001.
- China is the world's fastest growing telecommunications market. Each year, China installs enough phone lines to replace networks the size of Pacific Bell. By the end of 1999, China boasted approximately 40 million cellular subscribers. Only the U.S. telecommunications market is expected to be larger by the end of 2000.
- In 1999 alone, the number of Chinese Internet users quadrupled, jumping from 2 million at the beginning of the year to 9 million. Growth predictions put Internet users at over 20 million by the end of 2000.

Attachments

- Invitation
- March 27, 2000 Talking Points on China PNTR
- Q&A on timing of vote
- Daschle Q&As and Principal Q&As
- Article from today's news on steelworker job loss claims
- High Tech Fact sheets
- President/Administration Activities



Elliott H. Baer
03/27/2000 06:13:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP, Jason Furman/OPD/EOP@EOP, Timothy E. Punke/OPD/EOP@EOP, Ronald Minsk/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: David Tseng/OPD/EOP@EOP, Jamie H. Ginott/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: GS's Webcast tomorrow

Tomorrow, Gene will be doing a 20-30 minute live Webcast direct to Cambridge, England. He will be part of a panel discussion on Financial, Social and Political Globalization. The moderator plans on asking Gene questions about the most current events. They want general positions by Gene and some sort of insight on these issues from our standpoint. The issues they intend to focus on are:

1. The Microsoft Decision (if one comes down tomorrow)
2. China in the WTO and prospects for PNTR
3. Reaction to OPEC decision
4. E-Commerce: Privacy, Taxation

Please use this guidance to prepare your briefing materials.

Sent By: NEWMARKET;

202 298 6278;

Mar-23-00 6:15PM;

Page 2



Nicholas Dowling
Vice President

March 23, 2000

The Honorable Gene Sperling
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The White House
By Facsimile

Dear Gene:

The Newmarket Company and Procter & Gamble are delighted you can join us via Webcast for The Cambridge CEO Forum at 1:30 pm EST on March 28, 2000. This letter outlines the program our expectations about remarks during the Webcast. In addition, we have attached the event participants and schedule.

The Program

The Webcast will be featured during a reception for the CEOs at the Judge Institute at Cambridge University. We will leadoff with a prototype demonstration of Intellibridge, our unique new Internet-based global intelligence platform that includes Webcast capabilities. At the end of the Intellibridge demo, the moderator, Newmarket CEO David Rothkopf, will activate the Webcast and greet you.

The Webcast discussion will consist of a give and take on international economic questions of the day. You do not need prepared remarks. Rather, David will start by asking you about the top international economic development of the day, whether it is PNTR for China or recent interest rate increases. We will give your staff a specific heads-up about the initial questions on the day of the event. You should also be prepared to take a few questions from the CEOs. Since the CEOs are primarily from consumer products, retail, and technology companies, you may want to be prepared for questions of particular interest to them. After ten minutes or so, David will ask you a question or two to preview the dinner discussion about globalization. This could include something about political and social implications of the digital divide or how the information revolution is changing politics and business.

3307 M Street NW Suite 200 Washington D.C. 20007
Voice (202) 298-6300 Fax (202) 298-6276 E-mail ndowling@newmarketnet.com

Sent By: NEWMARKET;

202 298 6276;

Mar-23-00 6:16PM;

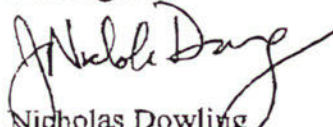
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Logistics

You should arrive at our offices at 3307 M Street, Suite 200 in Georgetown by 1:30pm. A member of our staff will be waiting for you downstairs. This will provide sufficient time for me to greet you, get you into our "mini-studio" and provide any last minute guidance about issues that may be raised. The Intellibridge demonstration and Webcast will begin at 1:45 EST and should be concluded at about 2:10. As in all broadcast events, the Intellibridge/Webcast demonstration should happen on schedule.

Please do not hesitate to call me for any reason. As I mentioned to your staff, I am also happy to talk to you in person or by phone over the next few days to preview the Intellibridge demo, the Webcast technology, and the flow of the discussion.

Best regards,



Nicholas Dowling

Vice President and Executive Director of the Newmarket Advisory Board

*Thanks for
participating!
I think you
will enjoy it.*

Enclosures

Cambridge CEO Forum

Future Forces: New Marketplace, New Connections

DAY I - Tuesday, March 28

NATL ECONOMIC COUNCIL
Mar-28-00 6:16PM;
202 298 6276;
03/27/00 18:55 FAX
Sent By: NEWMARKET;

TIME	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	LOCATION
8:45	Bus departs for Cambridge			
10:30-10:40	WELCOME	Procter & Gamble CEO, Dirk Jager and Director Judge Institute, Cambridge University Business School, Sandra Dawson welcome the group		Downing College Upper Howard Bldg Cambridge University
10:40-11:30	Top of Mind Issues	We start with a general discussion of key issues facing CEO's over the next 5 years	Group discussion facilitated by Dr. Robert Johansen, President, Institute for the Future	Downing College Upper Howard Bldg Cambridge University
11:30	Consumer Connections: "The Consumer-centric" Company	Expert panelists offer provocative insights on: - The "post information age" consumer - Internet shopping - Turning deep new consumer insights into tangible results - Global vs. local consumers	Expert panel discussion followed by group discussion facilitated by David Donnan, A.T. Kearney PANELISTS 1. Rolf Jensen, Director, Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies 2. Dr. G. Clotilde Rapaille, President, Archetype Discoveries Worldwide ORIGINAL RESEARCH Profiles of the Japanese, French, and the American Consumer (Mind of the Market Lab, Harvard University)	Downing College Upper Howard Bldg Cambridge University
1:15		LUNCH Talk by: John Chambers, CEO, Cisco Systems		Downing College West Lodge Cambridge
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6:00		RECEPTION	Webcast Presentation Gene Sperting, Assistant to President Clinton for Economic Affairs	Judge Institute
7:15		DINNER	Our after dinner discussion will focus on the financial, political, and social issues that could impact globalization over the next 5 years. Facilitated by David Rothkopf, President, Newmarket, Inc. PANELISTS 1. <u>Gordon Smith</u> , Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada 2. <u>Ken Courtis</u> , Managing Director & Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs Asia 3. <u>Jacques Attali</u> , Former Chef du Cabinet, France 4. <u>Ruud Lubbers</u> , Former Prime Minister to The Netherlands 5. <u>Jan Krzysztof Bielecki</u> , Former Prime Minister of Poland	Queens College Dining Hall Cambridge University

DAY II - Wednesday, March 29

TIME	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	LOCATION
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11:30	Managing the Paradoxes: A Future Scenario	In this segment we bring together the key subjects addressed during the conference (i.e. the consumer, technology, economics, geopolitics) and discuss possible scenarios and implications.	Facilitated by Dr. Bob Johansen, Institute for the Future and Gianni Montezemolo, A.T. Kearney	Hanbury Manor Pole Room
1:30		LUNCH Talk by: <u>Jorma Ollila</u> , CEO, Nokia		
2:30-2:55	Recap and Final Thoughts	We will conclude with a synopsis of key insights and implications	Facilitated by David Sibbet, Grove Consulting and Dr. Bob Johansen	Hanbury Manor Pole Room
2:55-3:00	Adjourn	Durk Jager and Sandra Dawson closing.		Hanbury Manor Pole Room

CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

Naoyuki Akikusa (President, Fujitsu Limited)
John Chambers (CEO, Cisco)
Christian Couvreur (President du Directoire, Group Casino)
Sandra Dawson (Cambridge Univ. Dean, Judge Institute)
Ronald Floto (Group Chief Executive, The Dairy Farm Group)
Evert Henkes (CEO, Shell Chemical)
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Nuno Jordao (President, Sonae Distribucao)
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Gary Michael (Chairman & CEO, Albertson's, Inc.)
Motoya Okada (President, Jusco Co., Ltd.)
Jorma Ollila (CEO, Nokia)
Steen Riisgard (President of Novo Nordisk Biotechnology)
Kevin Roberts (CEO Worldwide, Saatchi & Saatchi)
Stephen Russell (Chief Executive, Boots Company)
Lee Scott (CEO & President, Wal-Mart Stores Inc.)
George Shaheen (CEO, Webvan)
Jean Pierre Tirouflet (CEO, Rhodia)
Michael Treschow (President & CEO, AB Electrolux)
Cees van der Hoeven (President & CEO, Royal Ahold N.V.)
Alan Webber (Founder & Publisher, Fast Company)
Lawrence Wilkinson (Co-Founder & Vice Chairman, Oxygen Media, Inc.)

DINNER SPEAKERS: MARCH 28, 2000

Jacques Attali, President, A&A
Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Executive Director for Bulgaria, Poland and Albania,
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Dr. Kenneth Courtis, Managing Director and Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs & Co. Asia
Dr. Ruud Lubbers, Chair of Center on Globalisation, University of Tilburgh
Gordon Smith, President, Gordon Smith International



Mr. Sperling:

We are delighted that you can join us at the Cambridge CEO Forum, hosted by Procter&Gamble CEO Durk Jager. As you know, you will be the sole featured participant in a webcast to 25 top CEOs in Cambridge, England. The webcast will be moderated by Intellibridge CEO David Rothkopf and will last about 10 minutes. Likely initial questions:

1. OPEC Meeting -- Reaction to the modest production increase approved by OPEC ministers in Vienna and prospects for high energy prices, inflationary pressures, and outlook for US economy.
2. China WTO – Prospects for passage of PNTR. What are key votes or issues on Capitol Hill? When will it pass?
3. The New Economy – Does Washington economic metrics take sufficient account of productivity increases of IT ? Many in tech world believe that concerns based on out-moded economic models are needlessly driving interest rate hikes and punishing “old-economy” stocks. (John Chambers of Cisco may be questioner here – talked recently about this with Laura Tyson)

As mentioned before, David will also likely take a few other questions from CEOs.

David will wrap up by asking for some longer term perspectives about “The political, social, and financial implications of globalization” – the dinner topic for that evening with a group of distinguished panelists (Courtis, Lubbers, Smith, Bielecki and Rothkopf).

Thank you so much for participating!

Nick Dowling
Vice President
Intellibridge Corporation



Nicholas Dowling
Vice President

March 23, 2000

The Honorable Gene Sperling
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The White House
By Facsimile

Dear Gene:

The Newmarket Company and Procter & Gamble are delighted you can join us via Webcast for The Cambridge CEO Forum at 1:30 pm EST on March 28, 2000. This letter outlines the program our expectations about remarks during the Webcast. In addition, we have attached the event participants and schedule.

The Program

The Webcast will be featured during a reception for the CEOs at the Judge Institute at Cambridge University. We will leadoff with a prototype demonstration of Intellibridge, our unique new Internet-based global intelligence platform that includes Webcast capabilities. At the end of the Intellibridge demo, the moderator, Newmarket CEO David Rothkopf, will activate the Webcast and greet you.

The Webcast discussion will consist of a give and take on international economic questions of the day. You do not need prepared remarks. Rather, David will start by asking you about the top international economic development of the day, whether it is PNTR for China or recent interest rate increases. We will give your staff a specific heads-up about the initial questions on the day of the event. You should also be prepared to take a few questions from the CEOs. Since the CEOs are primarily from consumer products, retail, and technology companies, you may want to be prepared for questions of particular interest to them. After ten minutes or so, David will ask you a question or two to preview the dinner discussion about globalization. This could include something about political and social implications of the digital divide or how the information revolution is changing politics and business.

3307 M Street NW Suite 200 Washington D.C. 20007
Voice (202) 298-6300 Fax (202) 298-6276 E-mail ndowling@newmarketnet.com

Logistics

You should arrive at our offices at 3307 M Street, Suite 200 in Georgetown by 1:30pm. A member of our staff will be waiting for you downstairs. This will provide sufficient time for me to greet you, get you into our “mini-studio” and provide any last minute guidance about issues that may be raised. The Intellibridge demonstration and Webcast will begin at 1:45 EST and should be concluded at about 2:10. As in all broadcast events, the Intellibridge/Webcast demonstration should happen on schedule.

Please do not hesitate to call me for any reason. As I mentioned to your staff, I am also happy to talk to you in person or by phone over the next few days to preview the Intellibridge demo, the Webcast technology, and the flow of the discussion.

Best regards,

Nicholas Dowling
Vice President and Executive Director of the Newmarket Advisory Board

Enclosures

Cambridge CEO Forum

Future Forces: New Marketplace, New Connections

DAY I – Tuesday, March 28

TIME	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	LOCATION
8:45	Bus departs for Cambridge			
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6:00-7:00		RECEPTION	Webcast Presentation Gene Sperling, Assistant to President Clinton for Economic Affairs	Judge Institute
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Dr. Kenneth Courtis, Managing Director and Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs & Co. Asia
Dr. Ruud Lubbers, Chair of Center on Globalisation, University of Tilburgh
Gordon Smith, President, Gordon Smith International

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 2000

Mr. Peter Bijur
CEO
Texaco
2000 Westchester Avenue
White Plains, NY 10650

Dear Mr. Bijur:

During the past year, President Clinton has emphasized the importance of bringing greater opportunities to America's under-served urban and rural areas. He has visited communities around the country that have not participated in our country's economic prosperity, and helped create a catalyst for public and private investments to foster economic opportunity in these areas. The Administration has also introduced legislative initiatives to provide greater incentives for private sector investment in under-served areas, and is currently working with Congress on bipartisan efforts -- including Congressional Republican leaders such as Speaker Hastert -- to move this legislation forward.

The President has taken these steps because he believes that, given the unprecedented expansion and performance of the U.S. economy, we now have a unique opportunity to bring these areas into our country's economic mainstream. An important part of this endeavor is the need to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for more Americans. As the President Clinton said in his State of the Union, America has an important choice to make. We can allow unequal access to technology and the skills need to use it effectively to deepen divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, geography, and disability, or we can use these new technologies to help make the American dream a reality for more of our citizens.

To make the most of these opportunities, the President is issuing a National Call To Action to corporations, non-profits, educators and others to work together to meet two broad goals:

1. **Ensure that every child in every school has access to 21st Century Learning Tools:** To prepare children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, and to help improve their academic performance in all subjects -- we must have a comprehensive strategy to connect every classroom to the Internet, ensure that students have access to modern computers, train teachers to use technology, and expand access to high quality educational software and resources.

2. **Help create digital opportunity for every American family and community:**
Our long-term goal should be to make home access to the Internet universal. We also need to bring technology to every community -- urban, rural and Native American -- through Community Technology Centers and high-speed networks. Finally, we need to give adults and young adults the IT skills they need to compete for high-wage jobs, and to motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected."

We would greatly appreciate your participation and the participation of your employees in this important initiative. We are asking high-tech leaders such as yourself to consider the following actions:

1. Endorse the goals of the President's National Call To Action.
2. Identify new and existing commitments that you and your company have made to close the digital divide, which we would publish in a report that would be released later this year.
3. Consider participating in the trip that the President will lead on the week of April 9th. The President will travel with CEOs, leaders of non-profit organizations and a bipartisan delegation of members of Congress, and will highlight new and expanded efforts that companies like yours are undertaking to bring digital opportunity to under-served children, families and communities.

Among the efforts the President hopes to highlight are:

- Investments in comprehensive technology solutions for schools – including wiring and equipment, trained teachers, and quality software
- Donations of computers to schools and libraries in under-served areas
- Partnerships developed to help provide technology training to new and existing teachers
- Efforts to expand the number of Community Technology Centers in under-served areas, by providing all aspects of technology and expertise
- Efforts to motivate young people and adults to get connected – through Public Service Announcements and other mechanisms
- Employer programs that provide computers and Internet access to employees and their families at reduced rates
- Investments in quality training and internships to prepare more minorities and low-income workers for IT sector jobs
- Development of high-quality content and applications for students and teachers in core academic subject areas and for adults and families to help meet their everyday needs
- Progress in bringing advanced technology to isolated rural and Native American communities
- Efforts to make information technologies and the Internet more accessible to people with disabilities

If you are creating or expanding your efforts in these areas, or if you have other ideas or initiatives that help create digital opportunity for more Americans, please let us know. If you are interested in getting information on what President Clinton has proposed in this year's budget to create digital opportunity for more Americans, you can visit our Web site at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/digitaldivide/>

Please feel free to call me at (202) 456-2807 to discuss this further. You can also contact Tom Kalil in my office at (202) 456-5366 and Jay Dunn in the Office of Business Liaison at the White House at (202) 456-7702.

Sincerely,

Gene B. Sperling
Director, National Economic Council



Thomas A. Kalil

03/31/2000 02:05:07 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Yahoo!

As you you know, we are planning to announce a commitment that Yahoo is making to help recruit tech-savvy Americorps volunteers to help bridge the digital divide.

Yahoo was in the news today because they disclosed in their SEC filing that they were under investigation by the FTC for their privacy policies.

Although we shouldn't comment on FTC investigations -- I didn't want anyone to panic -- because the Internet privacy advocates think that Yahoo has a good privacy record.

See the attached quote from a Reuters story

Some Internet privacy advocates said that Yahoo has a good privacy
> reputation, as opposed to DoubleClick, against which they had campaigned for
> months.
>
> "It's not like Yahoo has been a target of privacy advocates for a number of
> months like DoubleClick had been," said Jason Catlett, president of a
> privacy consulting firm, Junkbusters. "Their record is really pretty good
> for a company of their size. Unlike DoubleClick, it has a direct
relationship
> with its customers and a business that doesn't entail following them around
> the Web. If they do have a privacy problem, it's not likely to require major
> surgery to repair."

JOH
GS
BY 11/11/00

Message Sent To:

Patrick M. Dorton/OPD/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP@EOP
Gigi E. Georges/OPD/EOP@EOP
David Tseng/OPD/EOP@EOP



Cass Sunstein <csunstei@midway.uchicago.edu>
03/16/2000 03:34:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sidney Blumenthal/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: republic.com

Sid--I may have mentioned that I'm doing a new book, Republic.com, on democracy and the new communications technologies. Anyway I know that's a topic of some attention in your building, so I hope you won't mind if I enclose some beginning bits, in case they're of interest to you and yours:

Preliminary draft 2/15/00
All rights reserved
forthcoming, Princeton University Press

Republic.com

Cass R. Sunstein
University of Chicago
Law School and Department of Political Science

"The 'TV guide' will almost be like a search portal where you'll customize and say, 'I'm never interested in this, but I am particularly interested in that.' It's already getting a little unwieldy. When you turn on DirectTV and you step through every channel--well, there's three minutes of your life. When you walk

into your living room six years from now, you'll be able to just say what you're interested in, and have the screen help you pick out a video that you care about. It's not going to be 'Let's look at channels 4, 5, and 7.' It's going to be something that has pretty incredible graphics and it's got an Internet connection to it."

Bill Gates

"What is more significant is that counting of heads compels prior recourse to methods of discussion, consultation and persuasion, while the essence of appeal to force is to cut short resort to such methods. Majority rule, just as majority rule, is as foolish as its critics charge it with being. But it never is MERELY majority rule. . . . The important consideration is that opportunity be given ideas to speak and to become the possession of the multitude. The essential need is the improvement of the methods and constitution of debate, discussion and persuasion. That is THE problem of the public."

John Dewey, The

Public and its Problems

"Television is just another appliance. It's a toaster with pictures."

Mark Fowler, former

Chair of the Federal Communications Commission

"One must take men as they are, they tell us, and not as the world's uninformed pedants or good-natured dreamers fancy that they ought to be. But 'as they are' ought to read 'as we have made them' . . . In this way, the prophecy of the supposedly clever statesmen is fulfilled."

Kant, The Contest of Faculties

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Introduction

Chapter 1: The Daily Me

Chapter 2: An Analogy and An Ideal

Chapter 3: Fragmentation

Chapter 4: Information

Chapter 5: Citizens

Chapter 6: What's Regulation? A Polemic and A Plea

Chapter 7: Freedom of Speech

Chapter 8: Policies and Proposals

Chapter 9: Conclusion: Within and Without Enclaves

Chapter 1: The Daily Me

1.1. A question and a thesis

How will the astonishing technological developments in communications affect democracy? Will the rise of the Internet, the new forms of television, and the explosion of communications options, alter the capacity for citizens to govern themselves? What are the preconditions for a well-functioning system of democratic deliberation?

My purpose in this book is cast light on these questions. I do so by emphasizing the most striking power provided by emerging technologies: the growing power of consumers to "filter" what it is that they see. In the extreme case, people will be fully able to design their own communications universe. They will find it easy to exclude, in advance, topics and points of view that they wish to avoid. I will also provide some notes on the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, and also on the general direction of possible policy reforms, designed to ensure that new communications technologies serve democracy, rather than the other way around.

A large part of my aim is to obtain a better understanding of what makes for a well-functioning system of free expression. Above all, I urge that in a heterogeneous society, such a system requires something other than free, or publicly unrestricted, individual choices. On the contrary, it imposes two distinctive requirements. First, people should be exposed to materials that they would not have chosen in advance. Unanticipated encounters, involving topics and points of view that people have not sought out and perhaps find quite irritating, are central to democracy and even to freedom itself. Second, many or most citizens should have a range of common experiences. Without shared experiences, a heterogeneous society will have a much more difficult time in addressing social problems; people may even find it hard to understand one another. As preconditions for a well-functioning democracy, these requirements hold in any large nation. They have all the more importance as each nation becomes increasingly global and each citizen becomes, to a greater or lesser degree, a "citizen of the world."

An insistence on the two requirements should not be understood as a basis for fear of the Internet, or for that matter of any other communications technology. Nor should it be taken as a reason for "optimism" or "pessimism." These are the two great obstacles to clear thinking about new technological developments; any attitude of "optimism" or "pessimism" is far too general and obtuse to make sense in view of the many potential gains and losses inevitably associated with massive technological change. What I mean to provide is not a basis for pessimism, but a lens through which we might understand, a bit better than before, what makes a system of freedom of expression successful in the first place. An improved understanding will equip us to evaluate potential changes in the system of communications, and point the way toward social reforms if those changes disserve our aspirations. As we shall see, it is much too simple to say that such a system merely allows individuals to see and hear what they choose. Unanticipated, unchosen exposures, and shared experiences, are important too.

Sid--I may have mentioned that I'm doing a new book, Republic.com, on democracy and the new communications technologies. Anyway I know that's a topic of some attention in your building, so I hope you won't mind if I enclose some beginning bits, in case they're of interest to you and yours:

Preliminary draft 2/15/00
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My purpose in this book is cast light on these questions. I do so by emphasizing the most striking power provided by emerging technologies: the growing power of consumers to "filter" what it is that they see. In the extreme case, people will be fully able to design their own communications universe. They will find it easy to exclude, in advance, topics and points of view that they wish to avoid. I will also provide some notes on the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, and also on the general direction of possible policy reforms, designed to ensure that new communications technologies serve democracy, rather than the other way around.

A large part of my aim is to obtain a better understanding of what makes for a well-functioning system of free expression. Above all, I urge that in a heterogeneous society, such a system requires something other than free, or publicly unrestricted, individual choices. On the contrary, it imposes two distinctive requirements. First, people should be exposed to materials that they would not have chosen in advance. Unanticipated encounters, involving topics and points of view that people have not sought out and perhaps find quite irritating, are central to democracy and even to freedom itself. Second, many or most citizens should have a range of common experiences. Without shared experiences, a heterogeneous society will have a much more difficult time in addressing social problems; people may even find it hard to understand one another. As preconditions for a well-functioning democracy, these requirements hold in any large nation. They have all the more importance as each nation become increasingly global and each citizen becomes, to a greater or lesser degree, a "citizen of the world."

An insistence on the two requirements should not be understood as a basis for fear of the Internet, or for that matter of any other communications technology. Nor should it be taken as a reason for "optimism" or "pessimism." These are the two great obstacles to clear thinking about new technological developments; any attitude of "optimism" or "pessimism" is far too general and obtuse to make sense in view of the many potential gains and losses inevitably associated with massive technological change. What I mean to provide is not a basis for pessimism, but a lens through which we might understand, a bit better than before, what makes a system of freedom of expression successful in the first place. An improved understanding will equip us to evaluate potential changes in the system of communications, and point the way toward social reforms if those changes disserve our aspirations. As we shall see, it is much too simple to say that such a system merely allows individuals to see and hear what they choose. Unanticipated, unchosen exposures, and shared experiences, are important too.



Potential "Get Connected/Log On" Campaign Participants
BET.com's 20th Anniversary Special
Talent List

CONFIRMED

Jamie Foxx
 Busta Rhymes
 Mariah Carey
 Chuck D
 Da Brat
 Pam Grier
 Montell Jordan
 L.L. Cool J
 Babyface
 Stevie Wonder
 Ginuwine
 Destiny's Child
 Boyz II Men
 Toni Braxton *
 Yolanda Adams
 Shirley Caesar
 Karen Clark-Sheard
 Gerald Levert
 Kelly Price
 Luther Vandross
 Earth, Wind & Fire
 Gladys Knight
 Kirk Franklin
 Sisqo *

PENDING

Halle Berry
 Vivica Fox
 Jennifer Lopez
 Brandy
 Samuel L. Jackson
 Vanessa Williams
 Eric Benet
 Dr. Dre/Eminem/Snoop Dogg
 En Vogue
 Eve/DMX *
 Macy Gray
 Herbie Hancock
 Whitney Houston
 Jay-Z *
 Bobby Jones
 Juvenile
 Patti LaBelle
 Brian McKnight
 Maxwell
 George Michael
 New Edition

Handwritten: 7-11-01 / 6-11-01
 077-88 564 710

Handwritten notes:
 Rule Sent: NYU
 Stan H...
 077-...
 Susan F...
 P...
 P...
 B...

Handwritten notes:
 (1) Derek S... (B...)
 Mr. New York 5886535
 (2) Ryan Forester
 (3) Dan...
 Steve Holmes (Email)

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 413862
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 03/29/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE XAVIER BECERRA

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT LOS ANGELES DURING HIS UPCOMING DIGITAL DIVIDE
TOUR IN APR

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CHARLES "CHUCK" BRAIN	ORG	2000/03/29			
ACTION COMMENTS						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS BATCH #413856

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

NEC

ACTION CODES:

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEPC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO
RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FAX: (202) 225-2202



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE



413862

DISTRICT OFFICE
10 SUNSET BLVD., #560
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
PHONE: (213) 483-1425
FAX: (213) 483-1429

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

XAVIER BECERRA
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

March 22, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to follow-up on our conversation last week regarding your upcoming "Digital Divide" Tour in early April. As I stated prior to the gun control rally, your efforts to address this important issue are commendable and I still believe that a stop in Los Angeles would provide a unique opportunity to highlight the challenges before us in preparing our students to compete in an increasingly technologically oriented economy.

Students in Los Angeles represent the increasing diversity of America in the 21st century. This diversity is the key to our future success and is representative of the future of our cities. However, as you know, there is a divide that separates those who have access to technology and those who do not. We must work proactively to prepare every student with the technological skills necessary to succeed. While Los Angeles' diversity is one of our greatest strengths it also poses a number of challenges as we work to build a community that leaves no one behind. I strongly encourage you to visit Los Angeles at some point in the near future, as our city will undoubtedly lead the way in addressing how large, diverse cities can best bridge the "digital divide."

Once again, I applaud your efforts to make technology accessible to all our students and I look forward to working with you in promoting this goal.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

858442

413856

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

February 2, 2000

Today, President Clinton will unveil a comprehensive proposal to help bridge the Digital Divide and to help create digital opportunity for all Americans. This issue has also been a top priority for Vice President Gore, who has worked to bridge the Digital Divide by ensuring that all of our children have access to educational technology. Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. Unfortunately, unequal access to technology and high-tech skills by income, educational level, race, and geography could deepen and reinforce the divisions that exist within American society. President Clinton believes that we must make access to computers and the Internet as universal as the telephone is today -- in our schools, libraries, communities, and homes.

To make the most of these new opportunities, the President believes we must:

- Broaden **access** to technologies such as computers, the Internet, and high-speed networks;
- Provide people the **skilled teachers** and the **training** they need to master the information economy;
- Promote **online content** and **applications** that will help empower all Americans to use new technologies to their fullest potential.

President Clinton will announce specific proposals in his FY2001 budget to help accomplish these goals and help create digital opportunity for more Americans -- including \$2 billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations, and \$380 million in new and expanded initiatives to serve as a catalyst for public-private partnerships.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S 2001 BUDGET INITIATIVES

1. **\$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.**
2. **\$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.**
3. **\$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.**
4. **\$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.**
5. **\$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for under-served communities.**
6. **\$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities.**
7. **\$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.**

To Help Mobilize Public/Private Partnerships To Close the Digital Divide, President Clinton Will Lead A New Markets Trip This April: Closing the Digital Divide requires creative partnerships between industry, non-profit organizations and government. That's why President Clinton will lead a New Markets trip this April designed to mobilize a significant private and public effort to close the digital divide. This trip, which will include leading high-tech CEOs, will highlight communities that are using information technology to enhance our children's education, expand access to life-long learning, and create economic growth and high-tech, high-wage jobs.

THE CLINTON-GORE AGENDA FOR CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

Private sector competition and rapid technological progress are powerful forces for bridging the digital divide and for making Information Age tools available for more and more Americans. The information technology industry is able to double the amount of computing power available at a given price every 12-18 months, and is now selling low-cost computers and "information appliances" – such as specialized Internet access devices. Some companies are even offering free, advertiser-supported Internet access. By working with the private sector and community-based organizations, the Administration can accelerate the trend of expanded access.

But access to technology is only the first step. We also need to give more people the skills they need to use technology, promote content and applications of technology that will help empower under-served communities, and ensure that our teachers can use technology effectively in the classroom. Below is a brief description of the initiatives that President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to help accomplish these goals:

1. **\$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers:** President Clinton's budget includes \$2 billion in tax incentives to encourage companies to donate computers to schools, libraries and community technology centers, to sponsor schools, libraries, and community technology centers in designated Empowerment Zones, and to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for their employees.
 - **Encouraging companies to donate computers.** The President proposes to extend and expand an enhanced tax deduction to provide companies with an incentive to donate computers to schools, libraries and computer technology centers. This enhanced deduction allows companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation. Under current law, this enhanced deduction applies to donations of computers to schools only and expires after the year 2000. The President's proposal would extend this provision through June 30, 2004 and would expand it to donations to public libraries or community technology centers in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and high-poverty areas.
 - **Promoting corporate sponsorship of schools, libraries and community technology centers.** The President proposes tax relief to encourage companies to sponsor schools and community technology centers in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and targeted low-income areas. The President's proposal would allocate credits for \$16 million in corporate sponsorship to each of the 31 existing Empowerment Zones and 10 proposed new Empowerment Zones and \$4 million in corporate sponsorship for each of the more than 80 Enterprise Communities. In total, the President's proposal would help support up to nearly \$1 billion in annual sponsorships to help improve schools and community technology centers.
 - **Supporting technology training for workers.** The President's proposal would provide targeted tax relief to encourage companies to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for employees that lack the basic skills to succeed in the modern workplace. Companies would be allowed to take a 20 percent tax credit for up to \$5,250 in annual expenses per employee. Eligible employees generally would not have received a high school degree or its equivalent.
2. **\$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce use technology effectively in the classroom:** Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has made enormous progress in connecting schools to the Internet, and increasing the number of modern computers in the classroom. However, access to computers and the Internet will not help students achieve high academic standards unless teachers are as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard. President Clinton's budget calls for \$150 million in Department of Education grants -- double the last year's investment of \$75 million -- to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum. The need for this investment is clear. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 20 percent of teachers report that they are "very well prepared" to integrate technology into classroom. And over the next 10 years, K-12 schools will need to hire 2 million new teachers to fill the vacancies left by retiring teachers and to accommodate increasing student populations.

3. **\$100 million to create up to 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural communities:** The President's budget more than triples the Department of Education's support for Community Technology Centers - from \$32.5 million in FY2000 to \$100 million in FY2001. This initiative, championed by Congresswoman Maxine Waters was initially funded at \$10 million in fiscal year 1999. The goal of the initiative is to help close the "digital divide" by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults that are not able to afford them at home. These community technology centers will help empower hundreds of thousands of low-income children and adults in a variety of ways. Children will be able to improve their performance in school by having access to high-quality educational software after school and prepare for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century by getting certified with an information technology skill. Adults will be able to use computers and the Internet to take a self-paced adult literacy course; get access to America's Job Bank to see what jobs are available; learn to type up a resume and cover letter using word processing software; learn to start up their own "micro-enterprise" or Web-based business, or acquire new training. A study sponsored by the National Science Foundation confirms that Community Technology Centers are helping to bridge the digital divide. Of the users surveyed: 62 percent had incomes of less than \$15,000; 65 percent took computer classes to improve their job skills; and 41 percent got homework help or tutoring at the center.
4. **\$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families:** The President's budget includes a new \$50 million Department of Commerce pilot program to expand access to computers and the Internet for low-income families, and to give these families the skills they need to use these new Information Age tools effectively. This new program will provide competitive grants to public-private partnerships at the local level. Potential partners might include: local school districts seeking to expand parental involvement in education; high-tech companies willing to provide discounts on computers and access; libraries offering training on "information literacy"; employers seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce using distance learning, and government agencies at all levels seeking to save taxpayer dollars through the electronic delivery of government services. The Administration will continue to work with the private sector and non-profit organizations on the most effective way to design this program.
5. **\$45 million to promote innovative applications of information technology for under-served communities:** President Clinton's budget will increase the investment in the Department of Commerce's highly-successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to \$45 million -- triple the current level of \$15 million. This program encourages innovative applications of information technology that help empower low-income communities -- public health information systems that raise childhood immunization rates in inner-cities, tele-mentoring for at-risk youth, and electronic networks that strengthen local communities by fostering communication and collaboration.
6. **\$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of high-speed networks in under-served urban and rural communities:** High-speed Internet access is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today. The President will propose a new \$25 million program at the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees. The potential payoff from these kinds of investments is enormous. One company, for example, has helped people move from "welfare-to-work" by connecting their community with the high-speed networks needed to support telecommuting. This solves some of the biggest barriers associated with welfare-to-work -- lack of childcare and transportation.
7. **\$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in information technology and other technical fields:** The National Science Foundation will support efforts by tribal colleges to increase the number of Native Americans who are prepared to pursue careers in information technology and other technical fields. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. People are using the Internet to find lower prices for goods and services, work from home or start their own business, acquire new skills using distance learning, and make better informed decisions about their healthcare needs. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

Technology, used creatively, can also make a big difference in the way teachers teach and students learn. In some classrooms, teachers are using the Internet to keep up with the latest developments in their field, exchange lesson plans with their colleagues, and communicate more frequently with parents. Students are able to log on to the Library of Congress to download primary documents for a history paper, explore the universe with an Internet-connected telescope used by professional astronomers, and engage in more active "learning by doing." Students are also creating powerful Internet-based learning resources that can be used by other students – such as award-winning Web sites on endangered species, the biology of sleep, human perception of sound, and an exploration of the American judicial system.

Access to computers and the Internet has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who don't. In some instances, this divide is actually widening. A July 1999 report from the Department of Commerce, based on December 1998 Census Department data, revealed that:

- **Better educated Americans more likely to be connected.** Between 1997 and 1998, the technology divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25%. In 1998, those with a college degree are more than *eight times* likely to have a computer at home and nearly *sixteen times* as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education.
- **The gap between high- and low-income Americans is increasing.** In the last year, the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29%. Households with incomes of \$75,000 or higher are more than *twenty times* more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than *nine times* as likely to have a computer at home.
- **Whites more likely to be connected than African-Americans or Hispanics.** The digital divide is also persistent and growing along racial and ethnic lines. Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than African-Americans or Hispanics have from *any* location. African-American and Hispanic households are roughly *two-fifths* as likely to have home Internet access as white households. The gaps between white and Hispanic households, and between white and African-American households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994. However, for incomes of \$75,000 and higher, the divide between whites and African-Americans has narrowed considerably in the last year.
- **Rural areas less likely to be connected than urban users.** Regardless of income level, those living in rural areas are lagging behind in computer ownership and Internet access. At some income levels, those in urban areas are 50% more likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas. Low income households in rural areas are the least connected, with connectivity rates in the singles digits for both computers and Internet access.

In addition, data from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals a "digital divide" in our nation's schools. As of the fall of 1998, 39 percent of classrooms of poor schools were connected to the Internet, as compared to 62 percent for wealthier schools.

A STRONG RECORD OF WORKING TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to close the digital divide, and to help create opportunity for more Americans in the Information Age.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have set a national goal of **ensuring that every child is technologically literate**. In addition to preparing children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, technology can help change the way teachers teach and students learn. Teachers can communicate more frequently with parents, keep up with the latest developments in their field, and exchange lesson plans with their colleagues. Students can conduct research using primary source material, learn the principles of genetics by breeding virtual fruit flies, and learn astronomy by using a professional telescope located 3,000 miles from their classroom.
- **As a result of the Clinton-Gore educational technology initiative:**
 - The number of **classrooms** connected to the Internet has increased from 3% in 1994 to 51% in 1998.
 - The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35% in 1994 to 89% in 1998.
 - The "e-rate", part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is providing \$2.25 billion in 20% - 90% discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most. The e-rate alone has provided Internet access for children in more than 1 million classrooms.
 - Our total investment in educational technology at the federal level (including the e-rate) has increased from \$23 million in 1993 to over \$3 billion today.
 - Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

In addition, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have worked to:

- **Expand access to technology for people with disabilities:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been strong supporters of efforts to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities. Recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission will help ensure that telecommunications equipment, such as cellular phones, is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.
- **Expand access to technology in under-served communities:** In addition to the Community Technology Center program, HUD Sec. Andrew Cuomo has created approximately 500 Neighborhood Network learning centers that bring state of the art technology to publicly-assisted housing across America. HUD's Neighborhood Networks are innovative private/public partnerships that establish computer-based multi-service centers to help people in publicly-assisted housing learn critical computer skills and prepare for 21st century jobs.
- **Ensure that the Administration makes closing the Digital Divide a top priority.** In December, 1999, President Clinton directed members of the Cabinet to take specific actions to address the digital divide: President Clinton is directing members of his Cabinet (Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor) to take specific steps to close the Digital Divide, including:
 - Continuing to measure the nature and extent of the digital divide by examining the importance of income, education, race, gender, geography and age to Americans' access to Information Age tools;
 - Expanding the network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to technology for those American who can't afford it;
 - Promoting applications of the Internet that will empower low-income families, such as the ability to start their own business; and
 - Upgrading the IT skills of workers in low-income communities.

March 30, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: TOM KALIL
NATASHA BILIMORIA
KENDRA PROCTOR GOLDBAS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SCOTT MILLS, COO OF BET

Time and Location

11:30am, Ward Room

You are expected to do a drop by.

Participants

Scott Mills, Executive Vice President and COO, BET.Com

Purpose

To discuss BET.com's (and BET Holdings, Inc.) contributions to the digital divide trip. BET Holdings, Inc. has already agreed to run the PSAs and provide support for identifying key celebrities for the East Palo Alto event.

- BET has already agreed to run the Kaiser Family Foundation PSA. (Scott Mills may not know this yet).
- Scott's recent testimony before Congress is being used by some reporters to suggest that the market will solve the digital divide. This is what he actually said - his points make the case for our "motivation" initiative.

"Cost is not a barrier for a significant portion of the African American population that is currently offline. Instead, weak consumer demand and alternative expenditure priorities are responsible for this segment's underutilization of the Internet ... We believe that African American utilization of the Internet will increase substantially over the next eighteen months as the effects of low-cost Internet access and devices; the deployment of compelling African American oriented web site; and targeted marketing of the Internet to African Americans are realized. However, there will be a segment of the community for whom these forces will be insufficient. This segment will be best served by combined public and private sector initiatives to bridge the digital divide."

Topics for discussion

1. What is BET interested in doing? (Need to acknowledge that they help close the digital divide by creating relevant Web content through bet.com -- and their targeted marketing campaign.)

2. Ideas for messengers who would attract the audiences we are trying to reach and have credibility on the Internet
 3. What market research has been done that would provide an empirical foundation for the "motivation" argument?
 4. What could media, entertainment industry, performers, etc. do to help bridge the digital divide?
- Public Service Announcements (networks, celebrities)
 - Have a show on the digital divide (people with shows)
 - Radio spots (celebrities, music stars)
 - Concerts (FarmAid equivalent for digital divide).
 - Targeted marketing campaigns (IT and Internet companies)

Bio on Scott Mills

- Scott Mills led the development of BET.com. Prior to becoming Executive Vice President and COO of BET.com, Scott served as senior vice president of new business at BET Holdings, Inc. In this capacity he managed BET Financial Services, BET Design studios and several other projects (restaurants, film production efforts, etc.)
- Before coming to BET, Scott was a vice president at Lehman Brothers where is specialized in infrastructure financing. Previously, he was deputy treasurer for the City of Philadelphia. He is 31 years old and a graduate of the Wharton School.

Background on Black Entertainment Television (BET)

- Black Entertainment Television (BET) was established in 1980 by Robert L. Johnson, Founder and CEO of BET, Holdings, Inc. The initial objective was to create an African American focused television venue. Johnson began with a \$500,000 loan from John Malone (TCI, Inc.) and two-hours of programming on Friday nights. Today, BET Holdings, Inc. is worth \$2 billion, operates 24 hours a day and is broadcast to more than 60 million households in the US, Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Key initial investors in BET include TCI, Inc. Taft Broadcasting and HBO. In 1991 BET went public, selling 21% of the company for \$72 million. This move helped to infuse capital into several projects such as the BET publishing efforts and online service. However, Johnson and his primary investment partner John Malone (TCI) did not find the Wall Street standards consistent with where BET was headed and the company was taken private again in 1998.
- Johnson is currently focused on building a black-managed media empire based in Washington, DC. BET Holdings Inc., now includes:

- Five cable networks, (BETonJazz, BETStars)
 - Restaurants (BET Soundstage, Tres Jazz)
 - Movies, (Arabesque Films)
 - Books (Arabesque Books)
 - Magazines, (YSB and Emerge)
 - Jazz festivals and
 - Online services (MSBET and BET.com)
- BET.com is the second online effort for BET Holdings, Inc. The company's first venture was in 1995 as a partnership with Microsoft to create MSBET.com

Background on BET.com

- BET Holding Partners launched BET.com on February 7, 2000 to create an on-line portal for African Americans. In partnership with Microsoft Corporation, Liberty Digital, News America Inc., and USA Networks, BET.com is believed to be the largest investment in an African-American Internet venture.
- The site is designed to target African Americans of all ages and walks of life. It will offer a broad array of content covering topics such as news, education, health, entertainment, sports, family, finance, careers and technology.
- The site will offer free email and diverse interactive chat rooms as well as be a direct online retailer of products and services that appeal specifically to the African American market (i.e. urban apparel, books, music, health care, etc).
- BET Holdings along with its partners provided the initial capital investment of \$35 million as well as in-kind contributions for marketing and promotion of the website.
- Robert Johnson was quoted, "the failure of any community to avail itself of the resources of the internet will limit its ability to succeed in the new Millennium." He sees this website as a way to close the "digital divide."

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS
SMALL BUSINESS HEARING – TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000**

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY SCOTT MILLS, CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER,
BET.COM, LLC**

BET.com, LLC ("BET.com") is a joint venture between BET Holdings, Microsoft Corporation, News Corporation, USA Networks and Liberty Digital. The company is majority owned and controlled by BET Holdings and is based in Washington, DC. The company's mission is to educate, empower, enrich and entertain the African American online population.

The BET.com web site, which launched on February 7, 2000, is the first *comprehensive* online destination designed specifically for African Americans. The site contains over 20,000 pages of original and partner-provided content, robust online communities and leading edge communication features, all tailored to African American perspectives.

African Americans currently underutilize the Internet relative to other ethnic segments. However, African Americans are projected to be the fastest growing online ethnic population in 2000. Forrester Research projects that 40% of the 34 million person African American community will be online by the end of 2000.

The Internet is both the backbone of the digital economy and a powerful personal development tool. Failure by any community to fully utilize the Internet will adversely affect its effectiveness and ability to compete in the 21st century. As a company dedicated to serving the African American online population, BET.com has focused on understanding and developing strategies to address the digital divide.

We believe that market activity, including our own, will eliminate the vast majority of the digital divide facing the African American community. We also believe that the portion of the divide that cannot be bridged by pure market forces should be addressed through a combination of public and private efforts.

A great deal of focus has been appropriately placed on the role economics play in the digital divide. Cost and related issues are impediments for a portion of the African American population that is not currently online. However, changes in PC and Internet Service Provider ("ISP") pricing models are making cost less of an impediment. With the proliferation of free ISPs, free Internet access is now widely available. And, there are now many moderately priced PC/ISP packages and a growing list of low-cost non-PC based Internet access devices available. As a result, consumers can now buy bundled PC/ISP packages for a monthly fee that is less than the cost of basic cable service in many areas.

While these new pricing models decrease the cost barrier, they may raise a credit barrier for some people. However, just as the overall consumer credit market has evolved to include lending to a broad spectrum of credit profiles, we believe the bundled PC/ISP market will follow. In fact, we have had discussions with a number of companies that are negotiating consumer lending agreements for bundled PC/ISP packages that will accept consumers with relatively low FICA scores.

BET.com is planning to deploy two new services based on these pricing models. The first service is a completely free, BET.com-branded ISP. This free service will not require credit approval nor require consumers to surrender excessive amounts of personal data. The service will be available via software download on the BET.com web site and may be distributed via CD ROMs in BET Holdings' magazines. We believe this free ISP offering will be very attractive to African Americans who already own Internet access devices and are seeking a low-cost Internet access alternative.

Our second planned offering is a low-cost bundled PC/ISP package. This offering will provide consumers with a high quality PC, a comprehensive software package, unlimited Internet access and robust customer service for less than \$30 per month. Recognizing that credit may be an issue for some, BET.com is evaluating credit facilities that will allow us to provide this package to consumers with relatively low credit scores. We plan to market this service throughout BET Holdings' media properties and to distribute it directly to consumers. We believe that both free Internet access and bundled low-cost PC/ISP offerings will significantly reduce the economic barriers to Internet access.

Cost is not a barrier for a significant portion of the African American population that is currently offline. Instead, weak consumer demand and alternative expenditure priorities are responsible for this segment's underutilization of the Internet. For example, according to the Target Market News report on the Buying Power of Black Americans in 1999, African Americans spent \$3.5 billion on cable television subscriptions and only \$89 million on online computer services. This lagging consumer demand in the African American community stems from limited targeted marketing of the Internet to African Americans and the relative paucity of online offerings tailored to the community. *

Over the past several years, there has been a proliferation of well-funded web sites targeting various affinity groups, including women, Hispanics, Asian Americans and the gay and lesbian community. These sites were able to apply their capital to develop compelling and comprehensive online destinations. However, until recently, African American oriented web sites and Internet ventures had great difficulty attracting the capital required to develop compelling and comprehensive online destinations. As a result, online offerings tailored to African American interests paled relative to those for other affinity groups.

Of course, the appeal of the Internet for African Americans is not limited to culturally oriented web sites. The millions of African Americans currently online visit a vast array of sites, many having nothing to do with their ethnicity. Thus, notwithstanding the

relative paucity of African American sites, one would expect that demand for non-cultural offerings would draw African Americans to the Internet. However, until very recently, most Internet companies, both general market and African American, did not aggressively market their offerings to the African American community. This is evidenced by the historic disparity between the number of advertisements for online services in African American media properties and general market media properties.

Fortunately, this is changing. A number of major, well-funded African American oriented web sites will be launched in 2000. BET.com, which launched on February 7, 2000, is the first of the new sites to enter the market. With \$35 million in initial capital and powerful strategic investors, BET.com has the resources to build a comprehensive and compelling online destination for African Americans and to aggressively market its web site to the African American community. By applying these resources, BET.com was able to become the largest and most heavily trafficked African American portal during the first month of its launch. Other similarly resourced sites tailored to the African American and urban communities are scheduled to launch later this year. We believe that the combined effect of the substantial increase in online offerings tailored to African Americans and the active marketing of these offerings to African Americans will significantly increase African American awareness and use of the Internet.

In addition to the growth in the number and size of African American oriented web sites, general market sites have recently begun to develop targeted advertising campaigns for African American consumers.

In conclusion, we believe that African American utilization of the Internet will increase substantially over the next eighteen months as the effects of low-cost Internet access and devices; the deployment of compelling African American oriented web sites; and targeted marketing of the Internet to African Americans are realized. However, there will be a segment of the community for whom these forces will be insufficient. This segment will be best served by combined public and private sector initiatives to bridge the digital divide.

Scott Mills
Executive Vice President and COO
BET.com

Named to Advertising Age's prestigious i.20 (Interactive 20) list of top Internet executives of 1999, Scott Mills is executive vice president and COO of BET.com, a joint venture between BET Holdings II, Inc., Microsoft Corporation, Liberty Digital, LLC, News Corporation, Inc. and USA Networks. BET.com will create the leading online destination for the existing and emerging online African-American community. The emergence of BET.com, under Mr. Mills' direction, will mark the most significant economic foothold in the Internet space by an African-American owned company.

Mr. Mills led the development of BET.com, including the concept, market analysis and competitive analysis that resulted in the BET.com business plan. Mr. Mills is now developing the company's implementation plan for a February 2000 launch of the site.

Prior to becoming executive vice president and COO of BET.com, Mr. Mills served as senior vice president of new business development. Mr. Mills was responsible for identifying, evaluating, and managing business development opportunities for the company. In this capacity, Mr. Mills managed BET Financial Services, BET Arabesque Books, BET Restaurant Development and BET Design studios.

Other projects initiated during Mills' tenure as senior vice president of new business development include: BET SoundStage™ Club in Disneyworld in Orlando, FL; the launch of EXSTO XXIV VII, an upscale urban clothing line; and Tres Jazz, a jazz themed restaurant located in the Paris Las Vegas Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

Prior to joining BET, Mr. Mills was a vice president with the investment banking firm of Lehman Brothers, where he specialized in infrastructure financing. Previously, Mr. Mills was deputy treasurer of the City of Philadelphia. Mr. Mills received his BS in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
2:30pm-2:50pm @ GS

Attachments:

1. Briefing Memo from Kendra Goldbas
2. Agenda
3. US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Attendees
4. FY 2001 Administration Digital Divide Policies
5. The Administration Working on Behalf of Hispanic Americans
6. National Call to Action
7. Long Goals Paper
8. US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Banquet Program

DRAFT

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BRIEFING
AGENDA**

**Presidential Hall, 1:30 p.m.
March 27, 2000**

Welcome

Mary Beth Cahill, Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Public Liaison

The Census 2000

Robert Shapiro

Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Commerce

OPIC Initiatives

George Munoz

President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Hispanic Accomplishments

Maria Echaveste

Deputy Chief of Staff, The White House

New Markets/Digital Divide

Gene Sperling

Assistant to the President and Director, National Economic Council

Southwest Border Initiative

Mickey Ibarra

Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Americas and the Caribbean Base Initiative

Francisco Sanchez

Chief of Staff, Office of the Special Envoy

Closing Remarks

USHCC Executive Board Members and Chamber Presidents

George Herrera, President and CEO, USHCC

Kelbourne Ritter, Senior Vice President, Aetna U.S. Healthcare

Edgar Cintron, President & CEO, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc

Tracey Pinson, Army Small Business Office

Robert Cruz, Corporate Affairs Director, AT&T

Sara Gonzales, President, Atlanta Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Hector Barreto, President, Barreto Insurance & Financial Services

Maria Elena Alvarez, VP Marketing & Development, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

Raymond Viola, President & CEO, American Pallet Recycling LLC

Tom Stahl, Attorney at Law, Armstrong Teasdale Schlafly & Davis

Ray Arvizu, President & CEO, Arvizu Advertising & Promotions

Frank Rivera, President & CEO, ATL, Inc

Lynn Boccio, Director of DBE Planning & Development, Avis Rent A Car System, Inc.

Maria Cruz, Senior Specialist, Bell Atlantic

Ms. Stephen J. Robles, Director, Diversity Business Enterprise, Burger King Corporation

Andrew Ysiano, Executive Board, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Juventino Cano, President, Cano Container Corporation

Virginia Cisneros, Global Water Sales Manager, CH2M Hill

Zaida Soto, President, Concepts Office Furnishings, Inc

Max Sales, President, DC Latino Chamber of Commerce

Scott Flores, Vision Engineer, CEO, Die Cut Technologies

Alex Coto Torres, President, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Julian V. Canete, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Gilbert E. Servin, President, Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Guadalupe Taxman, President, Chesterfield Trading, LTD

Frank Gramo, President, Creative Business Development

Sharon Vigil, President, Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Nestor Fernandez, Digitron

Victor Gutierrez, Chairman/President, Dominican Informational Chamber of E-Commerce

Leticia Herrera, President, ECI, Inc

Nicholas Torrens, Director, Empire State Development Corporation

Oscar Gomez, Vice President, GTE Corporation

Juan Albert, President, GWIACC

Ricardo Perez, President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of North Carolina

Bruce Young Candelaria, Executive Director, Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce

Henry Calderon, Chairperson, East Harlem Chamber of Commerce

Rafael Cuellar, President/CEO, ECO and Sons, INC

Edna Gonzalez, Executive Director, Golden Triangle Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Joe Perez, President, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce

Paul Garza Jr., Director, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County

Richard Torres, President/CEO, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Juan Arango, VP of Operations, Hoy LLC

Mario Torres, Vice President, Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority

Rene Rodriguez, President, Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeon

J.R. Gonzales, President, JRG Communications, Inc

Otto Merida, Executive Director, Latin Chamber of Commerce, NV
Adrian Perez, Executive Director, Latino Journal Magazine
Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, President/CEO, Lisboa
Louis Sito, President, Hoy LLC
Lourdes Ortiz, Assistant Director, IL Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Alex Chavez, President, JCB Insurance of Manasota, Inc
Jerry Adrano, Management Consultant, Kansas City Hispanic Association Contractors Enterprise
Luis De La Cruz, Executive Director, Latino Chamber of Commerce of Santa Cruz County
Joe Lira, President, Lira & Associates
Luis Vazquez, President, Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Liliam Lujan-Hickey, CEO, Lujan Development/Genesis Int'l
Ramiro Robles, League of United League American Citizens
Jaime Lucero, President, Mexican American Chamber of Commerce
Yolanda Gomez-Stupka, President/CEO, Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Carmen Bermudez, Chairman and CEO, Mission Management & Trust Co
George Franco, President and CEO, National Financial Corporation
Alfred Placeres, President and CEO, New York State Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Inc
Belen Robles, Former President, League of United League American Citizens
Pamela Aguirre, CEO, Mexican Industries
Raymond Lozano, Manager, Civic and Government Affairs, Michigan Consolidated Gas
Judy Chapa, Supervisor, Corporate Relations, Miller Brewing Company
Carlos Caprioli, Board Member, Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Rosendo Diaz, President, Nationwide Collection Systems, Inc
Pat Burnagiel, Vice President, Newsday, Inc
Ralph Morales, Circulation Corporate Sales and Special Events Manager, Newsday, Inc./ Hoy
Kirk Ortega, Ortega General Contracting, Ltd
Jose Ignacio Gonzalez, President and CEO, Perishables Group International
Francis Gomez, Director, External Affairs, Philip Morris Management Corporation
Oscar Vargas, Project Manager, Emerging Markets, Pitney Bowes
Michelle George, Corporate Marketing Manager, Principal Financial Group
Carmen Ana Culpeper, President, Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce
Ismael Malave, Office of the NY State Comptroller
Ronald Harrison, Vice President Community Affairs, PespsiCo, Inc
Silvia Aldana, Director, External Relations, PG & E Corporation
Rafael Garcia, Manager- External Affairs, Philip Morris Management Corporation
Henry Hernandez, Director, Business Diversity Development, Pitney Bowes
Neil Comber, Director, Hispanic Marketing, Protector & Gamble
Tina Cordova, President, Queston Construction, Inc
Diane Bissel, Manager, Community Relations, Raytheon Missile Systems
Grace Trujillo Daniel, Vice President-Business Advocacy, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Marc Lopez, President, San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Heriberto Guerra Jr., Executive Vice President, Nat'l Constituency Relations, SBC Communications
Joseph Pacheco, President, Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
David Thomas, Vice President, Corporate Relations, Sprint
Israel Ayala, Chairman of the Board, Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ
Jose Perez, President, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Manny Aguilar, President, San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Rafael Sanchez, President, Sanchez Signing Service, Inc
Mary Louise Gonzales, President, Seguin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Dan Perez, President, Southwest Underground Inc
Shelia Hill, Director, Business Development Diversity, Square D Company
David Lizarraga, President & CEO, TELACU
Louis Sanchez, President, The Artec Group Inc
James Walter , State Government Affairs Representative, Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.
Maritza Rivera, VP of Government Relations, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Lourdes Santiago, Vice President of Marketing, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Sylvia Palms, VP, Supplier Diversity, U.S. West
Neal McLeans, Human Resource Manager, United Parcel Service
Thomas Flewellyn, Director, Walt Disney World Co
Rudy Max Beserra, Assistant V-P Corporate Latin Affairs, The Coca-Cola Company
Ramon Rodriguez, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
George Herrera, President and CEO, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Carmen McGhee, Director of Event Services, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Juanita D. Ruiz, President, United Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inland Empire, CA
Ivelisse Estrada, VP Corporate and Community Relations, Univision Communications, Inc
Dennis Swanson, President & General Manager, Co-Chair NBC Olympics, WNBC
Rodney Littles
Carlos Solorzano
Jim Rodriguez
Jose Chico
Yamil Hallal, President, Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, Services and Tourism
Sra. Nory Torres Martinez, President, Corporativo Eden
Alfonso de Jesus Sanchez Luna, General Coordinator of Social Communications, Government of the
State of Morelos
Norbeto Olin, President, National Chamber of Commerce of Pachuca
Antonia Ortega Reybal, President, National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism
Arturo Gonzalez, President, National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism, Tijuana
Francisco Abraham Atala Campos, President, Construction Grupo Mexicano del Ingenieria Intergral S.A.
De C.V.
Sra. Maria de Teresa Erika Burnett, President, Desarrollo Integral para la Familia
Alfredo Jacobo Molina, Director, Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
Eduardo Becerra Perez, President, National Chamber of Commerce of Transformation of Industry
Amalin Yabur Elias de Ferrer, President, National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism
Villahermosa
Jorge Romero Romero, Secretary of Tourism, State of Hidalgo, MX
Victor Vidal Alvarez, Under Secretary of Tourism, State of Hidalgo, MX
Victor Manuel Saucedo Perdomo, State Representative, State of Morelos
Jesus Adolfo Taracena Martinez, Secretary of Economic Development, State of Tabasco, MX
Patricia Acevedo de Herrera, US Representative of the State of Tabasco
Jorge Morales Barud, Governor of the State of Morelos, MX
Ana Maria Navarro Garcia, President, Camara Nacional en Pequeno de Pachuca
Alejandro Mojica Toledo, State Representative, State of Morelos
Jose Alberto Aguilar, Advisor to the Governor on International Affairs
Claudia Juana Guerrero Salgado, Director of International Trade, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Jorge Alberto de Jesus Delgado Herrera, Secretary of Development of the State of Morelos
Jose Luis Vasquez, Attorney

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

February 2, 2000

Today, President Clinton will unveil a comprehensive proposal to help bridge the Digital Divide and to help create digital opportunity for all Americans. This issue has also been a top priority for Vice President Gore, who has worked to bridge the Digital Divide by ensuring that all of our children have access to educational technology. Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. Unfortunately, unequal access to technology and high-tech skills by income, educational level, race, and geography could deepen and reinforce the divisions that exist within American society. President Clinton believes that we must make access to computers and the Internet as universal as the telephone is today -- in our schools, libraries, communities, and homes.

To make the most of these new opportunities, the President believes we must:

- Broaden **access** to technologies such as computers, the Internet, and high-speed networks;
- Provide people the **skilled teachers** and the **training** they need to master the information economy;
- Promote **online content** and **applications** that will help empower all Americans to use new technologies to their fullest potential.

President Clinton will announce specific proposals in his FY2001 budget to help accomplish these goals and help create digital opportunity for more Americans -- including \$2 billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations, and \$380 million in new and expanded initiatives to serve as a catalyst for public-private partnerships.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S 2001 BUDGET INITIATIVES

1. **\$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.**
2. **\$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.**
3. **\$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.**
4. **\$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.**
5. **\$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for under-served communities.**
6. **\$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities.**
7. **\$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.**

To Help Mobilize Public/Private Partnerships To Close the Digital Divide, President Clinton Will Lead A New Markets Trip This April: Closing the Digital Divide requires creative partnerships between industry, non-profit organizations and government. That's why President Clinton will lead a New Markets trip this April designed to mobilize a significant private and public effort to close the digital divide. This trip, which will include leading high-tech CEOs, will highlight communities that are using information technology to enhance our children's education, expand access to life-long learning, and create economic growth and high-tech, high-wage jobs.

THE CLINTON-GORE AGENDA FOR CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

Private sector competition and rapid technological progress are powerful forces for bridging the digital divide and for making Information Age tools available for more and more Americans. The information technology industry is able to double the amount of computing power available at a given price every 12-18 months, and is now selling low-cost computers and "information appliances" – such as specialized Internet access devices. Some companies are even offering free, advertiser-supported Internet access. By working with the private sector and community-based organizations, the Administration can accelerate the trend of expanded access.

But access to technology is only the first step. We also need to give more people the skills they need to use technology, promote content and applications of technology that will help empower under-served communities, and ensure that our teachers can use technology effectively in the classroom. Below is a brief description of the initiatives that President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to help accomplish these goals:

1. **\$2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers:** President Clinton's budget includes \$2 billion in tax incentives to encourage companies to donate computers to schools, libraries and community technology centers, to sponsor schools, libraries, and community technology centers in designated Empowerment Zones, and to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for their employees.
 - **Encouraging companies to donate computers.** The President proposes to extend and expand an enhanced tax deduction to provide companies with an incentive to donate computers to schools, libraries and computer technology centers. This enhanced deduction allows companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation. Under current law, this enhanced deduction applies to donations of computers to schools only and expires after the year 2000. The President's proposal would extend this provision through June 30, 2004 and would expand it to donations to public libraries or community technology centers in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and high-poverty areas.
 - **Promoting corporate sponsorship of schools, libraries and community technology centers.** The President proposes tax relief to encourage companies to sponsor schools and community technology centers in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and targeted low-income areas. The President's proposal would allocate credits for \$16 million in corporate sponsorship to each of the 31 existing Empowerment Zones and 10 proposed new Empowerment Zones and \$4 million in corporate sponsorship for each of the more than 80 Enterprise Communities. In total, the President's proposal would help support up to nearly \$1 billion in annual sponsorships to help improve schools and community technology centers.
 - **Supporting technology training for workers.** The President's proposal would provide targeted tax relief to encourage companies to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for employees that lack the basic skills to succeed in the modern workplace. Companies would be allowed to take a 20 percent tax credit for up to \$5,250 in annual expenses per employee. Eligible employees generally would not have received a high school degree or its equivalent.
2. **\$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce use technology effectively in the classroom:** Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has made enormous progress in connecting schools to the Internet, and increasing the number of modern computers in the classroom. However, access to computers and the Internet will not help students achieve high academic standards unless teachers are as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard. President Clinton's budget calls for \$150 million in Department of Education grants -- double the last year's investment of \$75 million -- to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum. The need for this investment is clear. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 20 percent of teachers report that they are "very well prepared" to integrate technology into classroom. And over the next 10 years, K-12 schools will need to hire 2 million new teachers to fill the vacancies left by retiring teachers and to accommodate increasing student populations.

3. **\$100 million to create up to 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural communities:** The President's budget more than triples the Department of Education's support for Community Technology Centers - from \$32.5 million in FY2000 to \$100 million in FY2001. This initiative, championed by Congresswoman Maxine Waters was initially funded at \$10 million in fiscal year 1999. The goal of the initiative is to help close the "digital divide" by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults that are not able to afford them at home. These community technology centers will help empower hundreds of thousands of low-income children and adults in a variety of ways. Children will be able to improve their performance in school by having access to high-quality educational software after school and prepare for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century by getting certified with an information technology skill. Adults will be able to use computers and the Internet to take a self-paced adult literacy course; get access to America's Job Bank to see what jobs are available; learn to type up a resume and cover letter using word processing software; learn to start up their own "micro-enterprise" or Web-based business, or acquire new training. A study sponsored by the National Science Foundation confirms that Community Technology Centers are helping to bridge the digital divide. Of the users surveyed: 62 percent had incomes of less than \$15,000; 65 percent took computer classes to improve their job skills; and 41 percent got homework help or tutoring at the center.
4. **\$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families:** The President's budget includes a new \$50 million Department of Commerce pilot program to expand access to computers and the Internet for low-income families, and to give these families the skills they need to use these new Information Age tools effectively. This new program will provide competitive grants to public-private partnerships at the local level. Potential partners might include: local school districts seeking to expand parental involvement in education; high-tech companies willing to provide discounts on computers and access; libraries offering training on "information literacy"; employers seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce using distance learning, and government agencies at all levels seeking to save taxpayer dollars through the electronic delivery of government services. The Administration will continue to work with the private sector and non-profit organizations on the most effective way to design this program.
5. **\$45 million to promote innovative applications of information technology for under-served communities:** President Clinton's budget will increase the investment in the Department of Commerce's highly-successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to \$45 million -- triple the current level of \$15 million. This program encourages innovative applications of information technology that help empower low-income communities -- public health information systems that raise childhood immunization rates in inner-cities, tele-mentoring for at-risk youth, and electronic networks that strengthen local communities by fostering communication and collaboration.
6. **\$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of high-speed networks in under-served urban and rural communities:** High-speed Internet access is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today. The President will propose a new \$25 million program at the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees. The potential payoff from these kinds of investments is enormous. One company, for example, has helped people move from "welfare-to-work" by connecting their community with the high-speed networks needed to support telecommuting. This solves some of the biggest barriers associated with welfare-to-work -- lack of childcare and transportation.
7. **\$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in information technology and other technical fields:** The National Science Foundation will support efforts by tribal colleges to increase the number of Native Americans who are prepared to pursue careers in information technology and other technical fields. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. People are using the Internet to find lower prices for goods and services, work from home or start their own business, acquire new skills using distance learning, and make better informed decisions about their healthcare needs. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

Technology, used creatively, can also make a big difference in the way teachers teach and students learn. In some classrooms, teachers are using the Internet to keep up with the latest developments in their field, exchange lesson plans with their colleagues, and communicate more frequently with parents. Students are able to log on to the Library of Congress to download primary documents for a history paper, explore the universe with an Internet-connected telescope used by professional astronomers, and engage in more active "learning by doing." Students are also creating powerful Internet-based learning resources that can be used by other students – such as award-winning Web sites on endangered species, the biology of sleep, human perception of sound, and an exploration of the American judicial system.

Access to computers and the Internet has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who don't. In some instances, this divide is actually widening. A July 1999 report from the Department of Commerce, based on December 1998 Census Department data, revealed that:

- **Better educated Americans more likely to be connected.** Between 1997 and 1998, the technology divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25%. In 1998, those with a college degree are more than *eight times* likely to have a computer at home and nearly *sixteen times* as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education.
- **The gap between high- and low-income Americans is increasing.** In the last year, the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29%. Households with incomes of \$75,000 or higher are more than *twenty times* more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than *nine times* as likely to have a computer at home.
- **Whites more likely to be connected than African-Americans or Hispanics.** The digital divide is also persistent and growing along racial and ethnic lines. Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than African-Americans or Hispanics have from *any* location. African-American and Hispanic households are roughly *two-fifths* as likely to have home Internet access as white households. The gaps between white and Hispanic households, and between white and African-American households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994. However, for incomes of \$75,000 and higher, the divide between whites and African-Americans has narrowed considerably in the last year.
- **Rural areas less likely to be connected than urban users.** Regardless of income level, those living in rural areas are lagging behind in computer ownership and Internet access. At some income levels, those in urban areas are 50% more likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas. Low income households in rural areas are the least connected, with connectivity rates in the singles digits for both computers and Internet access.

In addition, data from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals a "digital divide" in our nation's schools. As of the fall of 1998, 39 percent of classrooms of poor schools were connected to the Internet, as compared to 62 percent for wealthier schools.

A STRONG RECORD OF WORKING TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to close the digital divide, and to help create opportunity for more Americans in the Information Age.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have set a national goal of **ensuring that every child is technologically literate**. In addition to preparing children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, technology can help change the way teachers teach and students learn. Teachers can communicate more frequently with parents, keep up with the latest developments in their field, and exchange lesson plans with their colleagues. Students can conduct research using primary source material, learn the principles of genetics by breeding virtual fruit flies, and learn astronomy by using a professional telescope located 3,000 miles from their classroom.
- **As a result of the Clinton-Gore educational technology initiative:**
 - The number of **classrooms** connected to the Internet has increased from 3% in 1994 to 51% in 1998.
 - The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35% in 1994 to 89% in 1998.
 - The "e-rate", part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is providing \$2.25 billion in 20% - 90% discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most. The e-rate alone has provided Internet access for children in more than 1 million classrooms.
 - Our total investment in educational technology at the federal level (including the e-rate) has increased from \$23 million in 1993 to over \$3 billion today.
 - Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

In addition, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have worked to:

- **Expand access to technology for people with disabilities:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been strong supporters of efforts to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities. Recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission will help ensure that telecommunications equipment, such as cellular phones, is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.
- **Expand access to technology in under-served communities:** In addition to the Community Technology Center program, HUD Sec. Andrew Cuomo has created approximately 500 Neighborhood Network learning centers that bring state of the art technology to publicly-assisted housing across America. HUD's Neighborhood Networks are innovative private/public partnerships that establish computer-based multi-service centers to help people in publicly-assisted housing learn critical computer skills and prepare for 21st century jobs.
- **Ensure that the Administration makes closing the Digital Divide a top priority.** In December, 1999, President Clinton directed members of the Cabinet to take specific actions to address the digital divide: President Clinton is directing members of his Cabinet (Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor) to take specific steps to close the Digital Divide, including:
 - Continuing to measure the nature and extent of the digital divide by examining the importance of income, education, race, gender, geography and age to Americans' access to Information Age tools;
 - Expanding the network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to technology for those American who can't afford it;
 - Promoting applications of the Internet that will empower low-income families, such as the ability to start their own business; and
 - Upgrading the IT skills of workers in low-income communities.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
Working on Behalf of Hispanic Americans

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Historic Economic Gains. The unemployment rate for Hispanic Americans is at the lowest level on record, with **unemployment dropping from 11.6 percent in 1992 to 6.0 percent unemployment** rate in November 1999. Since 1993, the Hispanic **poverty rate has dropped to 25.6 percent** – the lowest since 1979 -- while the **median household income for Hispanics is up 15.9 percent** (or \$3,880) over the past three years.

Encouraging Investment in Underserved Communities with New Markets.

President Clinton's New Markets Initiative is bringing economic development and renewal to communities that have not benefited from the soaring economy. This year, the President has proposing to more than doubling the New Markets tax credit to spur \$15 billion in new community development investment in economically distressed areas.

Closing the Digital Divide. Increasing access to technology and bridging the growing "digital divide" has been a top priority for President Clinton and Vice President Gore. The Clinton-Gore Administration's FY01 budget includes a comprehensive initiative to bridge the digital divide, broaden access to computers and training, and create new opportunity for all Americans.

Tax Cuts For Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two children who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted more than 1.2 million Hispanics out of poverty. This year, the President has proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to 6.4 million additional working families

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefiting 1.6 million Hispanic workers -- and called for passage of an additional \$1.00 an hour increase.

Creating New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work. Since enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law, millions of families have moved from welfare to work. With the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients and low-income non-custodial fathers into jobs. The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to hire long-term welfare recipients. The President's Access to Jobs initiative helps communities design innovative transportation solutions, such as van services, to help former welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to work.

This year, the President is proposing \$150 million for this initiative, doubling last year's investment. President Clinton has secured 110,000 new housing vouchers in the last two years to help welfare recipients and hard-pressed working families move closer to job opportunities, and this year he is proposing \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers.

Restoring Benefits to Legal Immigrants. The President believes that legal immigrants should have the same economic opportunity, and bear the same responsibility, as other members of society. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Agricultural Research Act of 1998, the President fought for and succeeded in reversing unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants. Our new budget builds on the Administration's progress on restoring these important benefits by providing \$2.5 billion over five years to allow states to provide health care to certain legal immigrant children and their families and pregnant

women, to restore SSI eligibility to legal immigrants with disabilities, and to restore Food Stamp eligibility to certain elderly immigrants and to legal immigrants in families with eligible children.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton-Gore Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities, that are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. In the FY01 budget, expanded wage credits and tax incentives will extend economic growth in the existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones and support the proposed third round of 10 new Empowerment Zones.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Hispanic Education Action Plan. The President proposed significant increases to programs within the Hispanic Education Action Plan to help Latinos excel academically, graduate from high school, go on to college, and continue on the path to life-long learning. The FY01 budget includes increases of \$823 million for programs that enhance educational opportunity for Latinos.

English Literacy/Civics Initiative. The English Language/Civics Initiative helps states and communities provide limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with expanded access to quality English-language instruction linked to civics and life skills instruction, including understanding the U.S. government system, the public education system, the workplace, and other key institutions of American life. This year, the Clinton-Gore budget requests \$75 million for the Initiative -- nearly \$50 million more to help an additional estimated 250,000 LEP individuals.

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. Since 1993, this Administration has increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent. The President's FY01 budget increases funding for Head Start by \$1 billion -- the largest increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school.

Class Size Reduction Initiative. Last year, President Clinton and Vice President Gore won a second installment of \$1.3 billion for the President's plan to help school districts hire and train an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. Already, 29,000 teachers have been hired through this initiative. This year, the FY01 budget includes \$1.75 billion for this program, an \$450 million increase - enough to fund about 49,000 teachers.

Turning Around Failing Schools. 11 million low-income students now benefit from Title I-Aid to Disadvantaged Students, and all our children are benefiting from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. 32 percent of children served by Title I are Hispanic. Last year the President won \$134 million for an accountability fund to help turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results. This year, the President is proposing to double funding to turn around the nation's failing schools to ensure all children receive a quality education.

New Plan to Get Quality Teachers to Underserved Areas. This year, the President and Vice President proposed a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative includes a Hometown Teacher Recruitment program to empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. It also includes \$50 million for Teacher Quality Rewards, which will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area.

New Tax Incentives to Make College More Affordable. President Clinton has proposed the College Opportunity Tax cut, which would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or claiming a 28 percent credit for tuition and fees to pay for higher education. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college.

Helping Students Finish College. This year, the President proposed new College Completion Challenge Grants to help reduce the college dropout rate, with pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students. **Currently, 31 percent of Hispanics drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites.**

Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions. The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented. This new \$40 million program will serve an estimated 3,000 students.

BUILDING ONE AMERICA

Working to Ensure a Fair, Accurate and Complete Census. The Clinton-Gore Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is as accurate as possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. The 1990 Census had a net undercount of 4 million. At least 5 percent of Hispanics across the nation were not counted. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000, and he is announcing new steps to encourage all Americans to participate in Census 2000. The President is launching a Census in the Schools Challenge, to ensure that children are counted and educate both students and parents; reiterating that census information is strictly confidential; and directing federal agencies to step up activities in support of the Census.

President's One America Initiative. President Clinton has led the nation in an effort to become One America: a place where we respect others' differences and embrace the common values that unite us. The President has followed up on the work of the Initiative on Race by appointing Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the new White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America. The office is working to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country, and build the One America we want for all of our nation's children.

An Administration That Looks Like America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration, **with the most Hispanic appointments and the most Hispanic judicial nominees, in history.** The President's judicial nominees have also garnered the highest percentage of top ABA ratings in nearly 40 years. President Clinton is urging the Senate to confirm the Honorable Richard Paez, the first Mexican American to serve as judge in federal district court in Los Angeles, who has been waiting for more than four years for confirmation to the Ninth Circuit; the Honorable Julio Fuentes for the Third Circuit; and the Honorable Enrique Moreno for the Fifth Circuit.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program. In the Balanced Budget of 1997, President Clinton won \$24 billion to provide health care coverage to uninsured children. In October 1999 the President announced new outreach efforts to enroll millions of eligible, uninsured children. Hispanic children make up nearly 30% of all uninsured children. To reach this vulnerable population, the Administration and states have made special efforts to advertise the availability of the program and provide enrollment materials printed in Spanish. This year, the budget includes several of Vice President Gore's proposals to accelerate enrollment of children in CHIP. The President is also proposing a new FamilyCare program, which would give States the option to cover parents in the same plan as their children.

New Initiative to Expand Health Coverage to Uninsured Americans. This year, the President and Vice President have proposed a 10-year, \$110 billion initiative that would dramatically improve the affordability of and access to health insurance. The proposal would expand coverage to at least 5 million uninsured Americans and expand access to millions more.

Assuring Access to Health Benefits. The Clinton-Gore Administration unveiled new regulations assuring families that enrollment in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program and the receipt of other critical benefits, such as school lunch and child care services, will not affect their immigration status. The regulation clarifies a widespread misconception that has deterred eligible populations from enrolling in these programs and undermined the public health.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities by 2010. President Clinton's initiative will help eliminate racial disparities in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. President Clinton won a 200% increase for this initiative in FY00, and this year he has proposed \$35 million in funding to continue the effort.

Addressing HIV/AIDS in the Minority Community. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload. Last year, the President won a \$210 million investment -- a 45 percent increase -- to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to new HIV therapies. This year's budget continues that investment.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration met its commitment to fund an additional 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, the President won funding for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005. This year, the FY01 budget includes \$650 million to continue this work and hire, train and equip more community police officers.

Preventing Hate Crimes. The President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides longer sentences for hate crimes. He also hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton has repeatedly called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to strengthen hate crimes laws.

Expanding Civil Rights Enforcement. In his FY01 budget, President Clinton has proposed \$698 million in funding for civil rights enforcement agencies, a 13 percent increase, to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct) and fair

housing and lending practices; help the EEOC reduce the backlog of private-sector cases; and allow HUD to take steps to reduce housing discrimination.

Working to End Racial Profiling. To help determine where and when racial profiling occurs, the President directed Cabinet agencies to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of individuals subject to certain stops by federal law enforcement. The President has also supported increased resources for police integrity and ethics training and to improve the diversity of local police forces.

Calling for Common-Sense Gun Safety Legislation. The President has called on Congress to complete work on common-sense gun legislation that includes closing the gun show loophole by requiring background checks and records at gun shows; requiring child safety locks for handguns sold; banning the importation of large-capacity ammunition magazines; and banning violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

More than 470,000 Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers Denied Guns. Since the President signed the Brady Bill into law, more than 470,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns through Brady background checks. This year, the President has proposed a State-based licensing system for handgun purchases. Under the proposal, every purchaser of a handgun must first have a valid state-issued photo license, showing that the buyer has passed a Brady background check and a gun safety training requirement.

Largest Gun Enforcement Initiative in History. This year, President Clinton has proposed the largest gun enforcement initiative ever. The initiative would provide a record \$280 million to add 500 new federal ATF agents and inspectors to target violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers, and fund over 1,000 new federal, state, and local prosecutors to take dangerous gun offenders off the streets. This initiative will build on the Administration's success in cracking down on serious gun criminals: the number of federal firearms cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorneys increased 25%, from 4,754 in 1992 to 5,500 in 1999.

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

Access to information technology and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important to full participation in America's economic, political and social life. While computer and Internet access has exploded in recent years, America faces a "digital divide"—a gap between those who have access to Information Age tools and the skills to use them and those who don't.

America has an important choice to make: we can allow unequal access to deepen existing divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, geography, and disability -- or we can use technology as a powerful tool to help make the American dream a reality for more people. To help create digital opportunity for more Americans, we must create strong partnerships between government, industry, and the rich mosaic of America's civil society -- including educators, labor unions, librarians, civil rights leaders, faith-based organizations, foundations, volunteers, and community-based organizations.

As companies, non-profit organizations and individuals, we are committed to taking concrete steps to meet two critical national goals: (1) Ensuring Access To 21st Century Learning Tools For Every Child In Every School; and (2) Expanding Digital Opportunity For Every American Family And Community. We pledge to support these two goals.

GOAL ONE: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. A critical element of this is the need for information and technological literacy. To help achieve these aims, we must focus on a comprehensive approach to integrating technology into teaching and learning while recognizing that -- as powerful as technology is -- it is no substitute for an inspiring teacher or a loving parent. Together, we must:

1. Connect every classroom to the Internet
2. Ensure that all students have modern multi-media computer access, ideally at a ratio of 1 computer for every 4-5 students
3. Ensure that teachers are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum
4. Make available high quality educational software and online learning resources

GOAL TWO: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY To ensure that no family or community is left behind, we must:

1. Set the long-term goal of making home access to the Internet universal
2. Bring technology to every community -- urban, rural, and Native American -- through Community Technology Centers and high-speed networks
3. Give adults the skills they need to use information technology and compete for jobs in the IT sector
4. Motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected"

**A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION FOR
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY**

**YES, WE SUPPORT THE CALL TO ACTION AND ARE COMMITTED
TO TAKING CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD MEETING THE TWO
NATIONAL GOALS FOR DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY.**

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION NAME:

PRESIDENT/CEO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY MARCH 24th TO:

Jackson Dunn, Office of Public Liaison

E-mail: [jackson_dunn @who.eop.gov](mailto:jackson_dunn@who.eop.gov)

Phone: 202-456-2930

Fax: 202-456-6218

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. While computer and Internet access has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration, America faces a "digital divide" -- a gap between those who have access to Information Age tools and the skills to use them and those who don't.

America has an important choice to make. We can allow unequal access to deepen divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, and geography, or we can use technology to help make the American dream a reality for more citizens. The Clinton-Gore Administration is committed to doing its part to ensure that all Americans benefit from opportunities created by information technology. But the government can not and should not do this alone. We need to build partnerships and develop a comprehensive approach to bringing digital opportunity to all Americans.

That is why we are asking you to build on actions you are already taking by agreeing to:

- Support the President's National Challenge to bridge the digital divide by agreeing to devote time and energy toward bringing digital opportunity to more Americans.
- Make new and innovative commitments to schools, families and local communities.
- Participate in the President's New Markets trip during the week of April 9th
- Support legislative initiatives designed to bridge the Digital Divide.

Your willingness to participate in these efforts will go a long way toward meeting two urgent and critical goals: to bring digital opportunity to every child in every school and to under-served families and communities.

GOAL ONE: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. A critical element of this is the need for information and technological literacy. To help achieve these aims, we must focus on a comprehensive approach to integrating technology into teaching and learning while recognizing that -- as powerful as computers are -- they are no substitute for an inspiring teacher or a loving parent. Together, we must:

1. Connect every classroom and school to the Internet
2. Ensure that students have computer access, ideally at a ratio of 1 computer for every 4-5 students
3. Ensure that teachers are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum
4. Make available high quality educational software and resources

GOAL TWO: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

To ensure that no family or community is left behind, we must:

1. Set the long-term goal of making access to the Internet in the home universal
2. Bring technology to every community -- urban and rural -- through Community Technology Centers and high-speed networks
3. Give adults and young adults the skills they need to use information technology and compete for jobs in the IT sector
4. Motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected"

ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

We can only reach our goals by developing strong partnerships between government, industry, and the rich mosaic of America's civil society -- educators, labor unions, librarians, civil rights leaders, faith-based organizations, foundations, and volunteers, and community-based organizations. We must also recognize that while competition, market forces, technological progress and new business models will help expand access by lowering the price of Internet access, computers, and "information appliances," access to technology is only one piece of the puzzle.

That is why we are urging that we agree to take a comprehensive approach: addressing not only Internet access and hardware, but the creation of quality content and applications, effective training, the development of information literacy, and intensive support and guidance from teachers and mentors. We must also make a special effort to find ways to motivate and inspire those who are not connected to see the value of participating in the Information Revolution.

By pledging to take on specific challenges in the overall effort -- beginning with some of the items outlined below -- you can make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of American children and families.* We also encourage other ideas and commitments to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans in a sustained and thorough way.

GOAL 1: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

Taking Action to Meet All Aspects of the Goal

- Make every school a model school by providing a comprehensive approach to education technology.
 - ✓ Examples of partnerships that have taken this comprehensive approach include the Joint Venture Silicon Valley "21st Century Education Initiative," and the "NextDay" project of NetDay.
- Match the Administration's Investment in the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing an increase from \$425 million to \$450 million to help states and local communities meet all four components of the goal.
- Work with local parents' groups to develop and complete school-wide surveys to determine which of the goal's four components are being met.
- Offer experts from universities and corporations to work full or part-time in schools -- devoting their knowledge and energy to helping schools achieve all four parts of the goal.

Connecting Every Classroom and Library to the Internet

- Continue support for the E-rate

* : Examples are for illustrative purposes only -- there are many other companies and non-profits that are working to bridge the digital divide.

- ✓ E-Rate has provided \$3.65 billion in support Internet connections in schools and libraries over the last two years -- with the deepest discounts to the poorest schools that need it most.

Continue volunteer efforts such as NetDay, TechCorps, and the “High Speed Education Connection” of the cable TV industry.

Providing Schools with the Computers they Require

- Donate computers to schools and libraries to bring greater access to technology to children and families
- ✓ The Administration is extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction to allow companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation.

Training Teachers to Use Technology Effectively in the Classroom

- Develop partnerships to provide technology training to all new and existing teachers.
- ✓ The Administration has set a goal of training all new teachers to use technology, and has proposed \$150 million to help meet this goal, which companies can support by partnering with schools of education.
- ✓ The CEO Forum has developed a detailed set of goals for how schools of education and states can work to ensure that all teachers are prepared to teach using technology.
- ✓ Several companies (e.g. Intel, Microsoft, AT&T) are also devoting significant resources to training existing teachers with summer academies, and follow-up support during the course of the school year.

Providing Compelling Content

- Create a Digital Library for Education to help students and teachers find quality content on the Internet.
- ✓ The Administration is proposing \$41 million for an initiative to expand access to high-quality Internet-based educational resources, and to make it easier for parents, teachers and students to find compelling content by grade level and subject area.
- ✓ Several companies (e.g. Ameritech, MCI WorldCom) have partnered with government agencies to offer intensive training to teachers so they can develop content, and have provided grants to institutions to digitize special collections (such as the Library of Congress “American Memory” project).

Motivating Young People to Learn and Use Technology to its Fullest Potential.

- Motivate and train youth for careers in information technology
- ✓ Companies such as Cisco, 3Com and Novell have launched programs which help prepare students for high-paying jobs in the IT sector.

- Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities
- ✓ Sports and entertainment stars can agree to do PSAs showing them using the computers and explaining why they are excited about the Internet, and why mastering these new tools is so important.
- ✓ Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities to motivate young people and adults to use computers and explore the Internet -- including a "no fear, no shame" campaign for those adults who may be reluctant to admit that they don't know how to use technology.
- ✓ This kind of campaign would also be important for adults -- many of whom might be afraid to admit that they don't know how to use technology.

GOAL 2: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Expanding Home Access

- Provide computers and Internet services to your employees and their families.
- ✓ Leading U.S. companies such as Ford and Delta have determined that providing their employees with computers and Internet access at reduced rates is critical to upgrading the skills of their employees.
- ✓ The Administration has proposed \$50 million for a pilot project to expand home access for low-income families. Companies can support local projects through free or discounted hardware, software, Internet access and training. Pilots are being supported by Computers For Youth, Microsoft, Bell Atlantic, IBM, and "Clickstart."

Creating more Community Technology Centers

- Donate all aspects of technology to help provide national coverage through Community Technology Centers (CTCs). CTCs provide children and adults a place to go where technology and assistance is available to them—including everything from conducting job searches to finding child care to providing children with structured after-school programs.
- ✓ The Administration is proposing to expand its investment in CTCs from \$32.5 million to \$100 million—to create up to 1,000 new centers.
- ✓ By extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction, the Administration encourages companies to donate equipment, software, Internet access, support and instructors to expand the number of CTCs.
- ✓ An example of a private partnership that has taken on a comprehensive approach is the PowerUP program (with support from AOL, Case Foundation, Gateway, HP, Sun, and Americorps).

Providing Greater Training to Allow all Individuals to Fully Participate in the Digital Economy

- Offer training and internships to prepare more minorities and low-income workers for IT sector jobs

- ✓ Information Technology Association of America is leading efforts to expand the number of minority internships in IT companies. Other companies and non-profits are getting positive results by providing IT training to people who are unemployed, on welfare, or holding minimum-wage jobs.
- ✓ One California-based non-profit (OpNet) has been able to help people who were unemployed or making an average of \$6 per hour compete successfully for jobs paying up to \$45,000 year. Another consortium of Northern California companies has launched a project called "Welfare-to-Web" to provide the training people need to make the transition from welfare to high-tech jobs.
- Provide Basic Technology Training to Workers
 - ✓ Companies can take advantage of the President's tax credit and provide their employees with basic computer training, workplace literacy or other basic education.
- Increase access to "information literacy" skills
 - ✓ According to the American Library Association, an information literate person is "able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively." Companies can donate the computers and Internet access that librarians need to provide people with these skills.

Providing Content and Applications that will Help Empower Low-Income Communities

- Develop content to help families access quality information and resources to meet their everyday needs
 - ✓ Examples might include compelling courseware for adult literacy, adult basic education, English as a Second Language, or the skills needed to start a "micro-enterprise."
 - ✓ Companies, state and local government agencies and non-profits can also collaborate to develop "portals" that would provide one-stop access to content particularly relevant to the needs of low-income families — such as child care, transportation, employment opportunities, and social services.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing to triple its investment in the Technology Opportunities Program (to \$45 million), which has supported many innovative applications of information technology.

Bringing Advanced Technology to Isolated Rural Communities and to Indian Country

- Ensure that Native Americans participate in the New Economy. The Native American community can benefit from training for IT jobs, access to broadband networks that can help bring technology-related employment, e-commerce solutions for Native American small businesses, and the use of technology to preserve and share Native American culture.
 - ✓ The Administration proposes \$10 million for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.
- Develop innovative business models and new technologies to deploy advanced services to rural America.
 - ✓ The Administration has proposed several hundred million in loan guarantees to accelerate the deployment of broadband wireline and wireless networks to rural America.

- ✓ Companies are developing broadband technologies that can be cost-effectively deployed.
- ✓ Companies are exploring ways to bring fiber optic networks to rural states if users can pool their purchasing power.

Ensuring that Information Technologies and the Internet are Accessible to People with Disabilities

- Make the Web and information technology accessible for people with disabilities.
 - ✓ The Administration and Internet companies are co-funding the “Web Accessibility Initiative” through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Internet and e-commerce companies can move to adopt Web accessibility standards being developed by the W3C for Web content, browsers and authoring tools.
 - ✓ Many telecommunications companies are working to enhance the accessibility of their products to meet the requirements of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing increased funding to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology, and to make it more affordable for people with disabilities.

10TH ANNUAL

UNITED STATES HISPANIC

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS & BANQUET



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March 27-28, 2000 • Washington, DC

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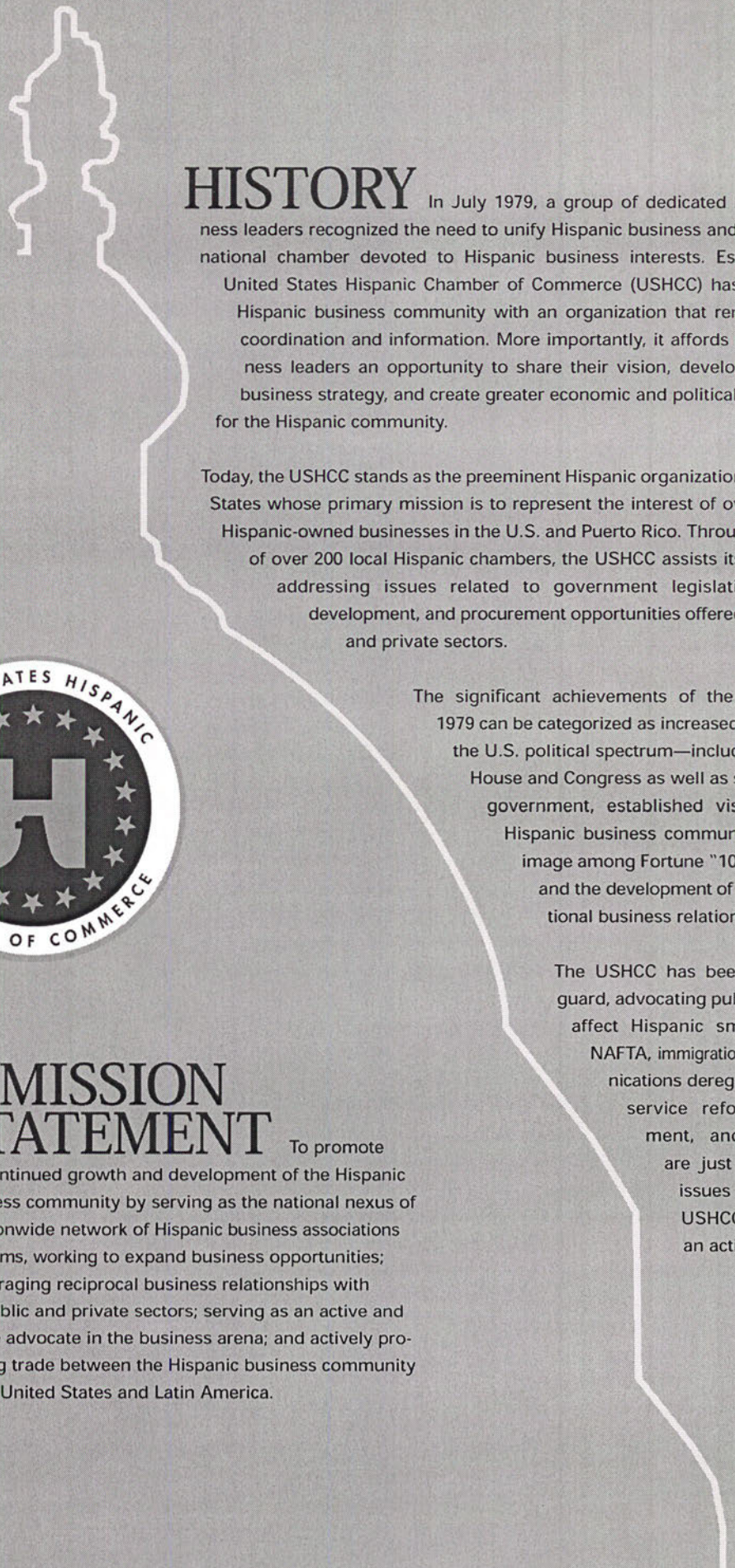
UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



George Herrera,
USHCC President
and CEO, greets
Vice President Al Gore
and SBA Administrator
Aida Alvarez.



NALEO Executive Director Arturo Vargas
fields questions at 1999 Symposium.



HISTORY

In July 1979, a group of dedicated Hispanic business leaders recognized the need to unify Hispanic business and incorporate a national chamber devoted to Hispanic business interests. Establishing the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) has provided the Hispanic business community with an organization that renders support, coordination and information. More importantly, it affords Hispanic business leaders an opportunity to share their vision, develop a long-term business strategy, and create greater economic and political opportunities for the Hispanic community.

Today, the USHCC stands as the preeminent Hispanic organization in the United States whose primary mission is to represent the interest of over 1.3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Through its network of over 200 local Hispanic chambers, the USHCC assists its members by addressing issues related to government legislation, business development, and procurement opportunities offered by the public and private sectors.



MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the continued growth and development of the Hispanic business community by serving as the national nexus of a nationwide network of Hispanic business associations and firms, working to expand business opportunities; encouraging reciprocal business relationships with the public and private sectors; serving as an active and visible advocate in the business arena; and actively promoting trade between the Hispanic business community in the United States and Latin America.

The significant achievements of the USHCC since 1979 can be categorized as increased access within the U.S. political spectrum—including the White House and Congress as well as state and local government, established visibility in the Hispanic business community, a positive image among Fortune "1000" members, and the development of sound international business relations.

The USHCC has been at the vanguard, advocating public issues that affect Hispanic small business. NAFTA, immigration, telecommunications deregulation, postal service reform, procurement, and franchising are just some of the issues in which the USHCC has played an active role.

LEGIS

FORUMS & BANQUET

As the premiere legislative event in Washington, D.C., the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) Annual Legislative Forums and Banquet bring together Hispanic elected officials, key government officials, the country's leading Hispanic entrepreneurs, and corporate America to provide a means by which they can discuss the most current and important legislative issues affecting Hispanic business.

By Attending You Will:

- Contribute to the development of the USHCC legislative plan
- Meet Washington leaders who shape legislation that impacts your business
- Express your views on the formation of national and state policy which has a direct effect on your business
- Network with business owners from across the country
- Meet representatives from corporate America seeking to do business with Hispanic entrepreneurs

Hector Barreto, USHCC Board Member addresses key legislation with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard



NALEO Executive Director Arturo Vargas (left) moderates discussion with Illinois State Representative Sonia Silva ; U.S. Representative Ciro Rodriguez (D-Texas) ; and Bronx, NY Borough President Fernando Ferrer

BREAKFAST & FORUMS

CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST

The USHCC Legislative Event features a congressional breakfast honoring the Hispanic members of congress. This event provides a great opportunity for our constituents to interact on a one-on-one basis with their respective congressional representatives. Members are invited to share their valuable insight on legislative issues of concern to Hispanic entrepreneurs.

LEGISLATIVE

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS

Every two years, at the start of each congressional session, the USHCC invites our chamber members to participate in its legislative task force committee. All six regions of the USHCC are represented on this task force. The focus of this committee is directed towards formulating the USHCC's legislative agenda.

The following year, during the second half of each congressional session, the USHCC addresses these issues and provides its members with updates on current legislative and regulatory changes that have occurred during the congressional session.

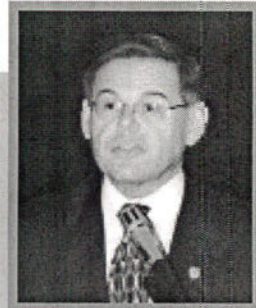
The USHCC invites members of Congress and administration officials to discuss its legislative agenda. The event provides its participants a unique opportunity to discuss the implication and effects of legislation and/or regulations directly with those responsible for their creation and implementation.

During the course of the forums, the USHCC not only seeks to inform participants of the latest legislative actions and changing federal regulations, but it also seeks to provide a venue for its members to interact directly with their respective representatives.

LUNCHEON & BANQUET

The legislative luncheon and banquet bring together USHCC members from across the country. At the banquet, the USHCC honors a public official for his/her long standing commitment and dedication to the development of Hispanic business. Last year's legislative banquet hosted over 500 guests. The Honorable Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor of California, was the recipient of the 1999 USHCC President's Award.

Over the past nine years, the USHCC's Legislative Forums and Banquet have hosted the following dignitaries: Vice President Al Gore; Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Jack Kemp; Former Secretary of Transportation, Federico Pena; the Governor of Puerto Rico, Pedro Rosello; U.S. Senator John McCain; and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.



Representative
Robert Menendez
(D - New Jersey)
at the 1999
Legislative Luncheon



Commerce Secretary
William M. Daley
pledged greater access
to business capital
at the 1999 Banquet



Senator Kit Bond
(R - Missouri)
addressed participants
at the 1999
Legislative Banquet

EVENTS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2000

8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration at Washington Hilton and Towers
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	National Member Roundtable at Washington Hilton and Towers
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	White House Briefing (by invitation only)
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome to Washington, D.C., Opening Reception (location to be announced)

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000

(all events will take place at Washington Hilton and Towers)

8:00 am - 8:00 pm	Registration
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Legislative Breakfast
9:45 am - 11:30 am	Legislative Symposium
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Legislative Luncheon
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Legislative Forums
3:15 pm - 4:45 pm	Legislative Forums
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Legislative Reception
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Legislative Banquet

HOTEL

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Washington Hilton and Towers
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 483-3000

For reservation, please call (800) 321-3232

Daily room rate:
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*To secure rooms and special rates, please reserve
accommodations by February 28, 2000*



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UNIVISION

COMMEMORATIVE BAG

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

**Digital Divide Briefing on Disability Issues
March 10, 2000**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mary Beth Cahill	Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison
Gene Sperling	Assistant to the President and Director of the National Economic Council
Thomas Kalil	Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
Jay Dunn	Associate Director of Public Liaison for Business Outreach
Jonathan Young	Associate Director of Public Liaison for Disability Outreach
Carol Boyer	Project Associate, Technical Assistance Project, Rehabilitation and Education Society of North America (RESNA), Alexandria, VA
Marc Brenman	Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, DOT
Judy Brewer	Director, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), Cambridge, MA
Deborah Buck	Director, TRAUD Project, New York State Office of Advocates for Persons with Disabilities, Albany, NY
Jennifer Dexter	Co-Chair, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Technology Task Force, Easter Seals, Washington, DC
Alan Dinsmore	Executive Director, American Federation for the Blind, Washington, DC
Gus Estrella	Policy Analyst, Assistive Technology and Telecommunications, United Cerebral Palsy Associations (UCPA), Washington, DC
James Gashel	Executive Director, National Federation of the Blind, Washington, DC
James Geletka	Executive Director, Rehabilitation and Education Society of North America (RESNA), Alexandria, VA
Judy Gilliom	Manager, DoD Disability Program, DOD
Larry Goldberg	Director, National Center of Accessible Media, Boston, MA
Susan Goodman	Project Director, Family Center on Technology and Disability, United Cerebral Palsy Associations (UCPA), Washington, DC
Meryl Icove	Attorney, Disability Rights Office, FCC
Kathy Ladipo	Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities
Larry Scadden	National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA
Susan Turnbull	GSA Center for Information Technology Accommodation, Washington, DC
Gregg Vanderheiden	Director, Trace Research and Department Center, Madison, WI

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**PROGRAMS & PROJECTS WORKING TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (DRAFT 00-03-09)**

[This is a work in progress, and will be updated with contact information, additional programs, and revisions of current descriptions]

ABLE-NET

ABLE-NET Internet Service, www.able-net.net, ABLE-NET Specializes in offering affordable, accessible Internet Access for People with Disabilities in 31 States and Canada.

Contact: John Kirby
(209) 556-9381
johnk@able-net.net

→ NSF *John Kirby*

① Digital Clubhouse
New York
Debra Bush Tech

Access to Physics Interactive Video Tutor Project

The CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Educational Services to make an on-line interactive physics course accessible to students with disabilities. Known as "Access to PIVOT" (Physics Interactive Video Tutor), this three-year project will test, implement, document and promote the development of multimedia access solutions to make distance learning accessible to blind, low-vision, deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Contact: Larry Goldberg
617-300-3722

② Bell Atlantic: NS
675 need for harmonious students

③ Accessibility - Usability

④ School Sys / Exec Order
Shah

⑤ Strong: to support 508 standards
will be implemented

Adaptive and Assistive Technology

The name of our program is "Adaptive and Assistive Technology" The Community Adaptive and Assistive Technology Center offers personalized AAT services to people with disabilities and their families. Through Its Computer Arts for Recreation And Employability Program offered after school and on Saturdays, the CAAT Center, in collaboration with local vocational education high schools, gives hands-on training in computer arts, adaptive equipment services, evaluations, assistance in getting on-line and accessing the Internet, and free equipment upon availability.

Contact: Elizabeth Sunshine, Executive Director
NYSID
930 Willowbrook Road - Bldg. 41-A
Staten Island, New York 10314
Office: phone/fax 717-494-6457

⑥ Further - Broad Charter
will be done
potential

Adaptive Computer Empowerment Services

ACES, a 60-person all-volunteer organization, recycles used computer hardware and software and distributes it, along with tech support services and tutoring, to low-income disabled persons in San Diego County.

Contact: Mary L. Adams
LCSW
Executive Director
madams@adaptive.org

Assistive Technology Library of Alaska (ATLA)

ATLA's goal is to help individuals and families overcome barriers to finding and accessing appropriate assistive technology. ATLA offers assessment/recommendations, provides sale or rental of technology products, and offers training in the use and maintenance of devices, and has a lending library. ATLA serves as a resource for people with disabilities from birth throughout the life span, parents, other family members, caregivers, educators and professionals.

A mix of state Technology Act funds, sales revenues, fee-for-service payments and membership fees supports the organization. In addition to maintaining a central office to coordinate on-site and off-site services, ATLA coordinates "The Alliance," a network of agencies and individuals throughout Alaska that offer technology assistance to families in outlying communities.

Assistive Technology Resource Center of Hawaii

Through extensive collaborations with community-based organizations and private partners, HATTS works to fulfill its goals of promoting increased awareness and greater access to assistive technology, and increasing consumer and provider skills, involvement and empowerment with technology. Consistent with the requirements of the Technology Act, its activities focus on helping rural and underserved communities gain access to technology.

ATTIC

ATTIC is an independent living center in SW Indiana. We have been a recipient of used computer equipment through the Christina Society and other groups. We have volunteer computer technicians who service or salvage the donated equipment, then we load donated software requested by individual to meet his/her needs, and system is given to consumers. This is a small project, but made a world of difference for some consumers especially students.

Contact: INATTIC1@aol.com

Bancroft e-solutions

Our project is designed to seek job openings that are conducive to telecommuting and matching them with applicants (who are based out of their homes) with skill sets based upon the job requirements. NH (as you may or may not know) has large disparity regarding access to the internet. Ideally we would like to go state wide with this project but are currently limited to high speed access areas only.

We have a Leadership Education In Nuerodevelopmental Disorders-MCH Interdisciplinary Training Project for graduate and post graduate students from 15 disciplines. One of our goals is not only to train them to have excellent clinical skills for working with persons with disabilities and their families but also how to effectively utilize assistive and telecommunications technology to enhance services and quality of life. We have a fiberoptic videoconferencing facility here and a closed circuit KidsTV network to hospital rooms and which can connect around the world as well as to over 270 schools right here in Indiana.

Contact: Dr. Lann E. Thompson, Associate Director
Riley Child Development Center
Riley Hospital for Children
702 Barnhill Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Career Training for Success Program

The Career Training for Success Program is a 26 week program designed to provide and enhance basic and advanced skills in several areas. We offer training in the following skill areas: computer operating systems, word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, database applications, presentation applications, internet applications, typing, filing, basic grammar, basic math, customer service, data entry, accounting, medical technology, medical office, job seeking, employee development, GED preparation, and adult literacy. The program is interactive and self-paced so consumers learn at their own rate, and actually work with computers and office machines as they receive individualized attention from instructors. We then "follow along" to offer support and guidance in actual job exploration and placement.

Contact: Paul Hubbard
Kcgwcost@sound.net
(816) 842-7425, ext.242
The Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries
1817 Campbell
Kansas City, Missouri, 64108-1794

CAST

CAST has been a leader in the development of the educational paradigm we call Universal Design for Learning(tm). We are working to make the general educational curriculum--the curriculum that "typical" learners encounter in our schools--accessible

and educationally relevant for everyone, including learners with disabilities and even gifted learners. The threshold requirement is that all educational curricular material be produced in a digital version. Once that requirement is met, there are a lot of tools available (including a product derived from CAST's own research, the CAST eReader) that can make the material useful by people with all sorts of disabilities.

CAST recently became the lead organization in the new National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs and with our partners, Harvard Law, Boston College School of Education and the Council for Exceptional Children. The National Center will explore the implications for policy, teacher education, training and practice, and curriculum design, implied by Universal Design for Learning. We find that Universal Design for Learning (UDL) excites those with whom we are able to communicate, and we think that UDL can play a major role in addressing the Digital Divide..

Contact: Donald R. Giller
Chief Resource Development Officer
CAST, Inc.
Center for Applied Special Technology
39 Cross Street
Peabody, MA 01960
Tel. +1 978 531 8555
TTY +1 978 538-3110
Fax +1 531-0192
Email: dgiller@cast.org

CE Disabled Services

From our beginnings in 1982 as CE Disabled Services, with a staff of 3, to a current staff of 7, from having served 127 persons with disabilities in our first year, to providing services to over 1,500 individuals last year. In 1989, Disabled Network Center joined and became a part of our organization. CE Disabled Services has grown in size and in our commitment to serving those with disabilities.

CE Disabled Services takes pride in its almost two decades of education and advocacy efforts. We formed a coalition, which helped to promote awareness of disability access issues. We advocated with City, County, State and Federal agencies for regulations to reduce access problems. Our consumers advocated to make the Municipal Courts accessible. A settled lawsuit, filed by consumers, mandated the City of Oceanside become accessible. We strive to make our web site, those of the media, governmental entities and others accessible to users of speech output technology.

Contact: Dr Clyde Shideler
CE Disabled Services
P. O. Box 495

San Luis Rey, California 92068

Computer Recycling

The Tech Act Project and works initiated this program with the Natl. Christina Foundation to solicit computers from business and industry for refurbishing and redistribution to persons with disabilities.

Computer Recycling within state agencies

In order to make the best use of limited funds, the Tech Act Project works with Voc Rehab and Services for the Visually Impaired to provide used computers for their consumers who need them. VR and SVI provide the funding for necessary software and accessibility modifications for the individual.

Descriptive Video Service®, NCAM

The Caption Center, Descriptive Video Service® (DVS®), and the CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) hold two grants from NIDRR; both are directly addressing technical infrastructure barriers - the first of digital television and closed captioning and video description and the second regarding "convergence technology" and inaccessible user interfaces for such things as Web TV and other emerging hybrids of the Internet and television. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is also supporting our DTV Access work through a project called, "Accessing Public Broadcasting's Future."

Contact: Larry Goldberg
Director, Media Access
WGBH Educational Foundation
Internet: Larry_Goldberg@WGBH.org
617-300-3722 (direct voice/FAX)
617-300-3400 (main NCAM)
617-300-2489 (TTY)

DO-IT

People with disabilities successfully pursuing academics and careers.
Programs to promote the use of technology to maximize the independence, productivity and participation of people with disabilities.
Recipient of the National Information Infrastructure Award; Education and the President's Award of Excellence in Mentoring and showcased at The President's summit on Volunteerism.
People helping people achieve success.
Resources for you!

Contact: Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D.
University of Washington

Box 354842
Seattle, WA 98195-4842
206-685-DOIT (3648) -- voice/TTY

DPI

DPI is a nonprofit agency working in partnership with Silicon Valley businesses and the community to prepare people with disabilities for competitive employment. Through adaptive computer access technology and career transition services, DPI creates opportunities for significant advances in universal access, social integration and employment for people with disabilities.

Founded in 1980 as Disabled Programmers, Inc., by a former IBM executive whose son was paralyzed in a diving accident, DPI formerly taught people with disabilities computer programming. The agency was renamed DPI in 1995 and has since changed its focus to employment access for individuals with disabilities and work-related injuries.

DPI focuses on four primary programs:
School-To-Career
Internship
Computer Access Technology (CAT) Lab
Mobile Access Technology (MAT) Lab

DPI assists individuals 15-years of age or older that have all types of Served physical (ALS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, stroke,...), sensory (Low Vision, Blindness, Hard of Hearing,...), and learning disabilities, and work-related injuries (Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, De Quervain's, Tendonitis, etc.).

There is no cost to enroll in the School-To-Career Program. The Computer Access Technology Labs may require a fee for the evaluation and training of adaptive computer equipment and ergonomic worksite evaluation. Approved clients may be eligible to receive funding for services on a case-by-case basis or through corporate funding, the Department of Rehabilitation or Worker's Compensation insurance carriers.

Nearly 26 million Americans are classified as "severely" disabled, requiring of DPI personal or technological assistance to perform daily activities. People with disabilities now represent the largest minority in the U.S. Most importantly, DPI offers persons with disabilities the opportunity to work successfully in a competitive job market.

Contact: Maria F. Nicolacoudis
Executive Director DPI
(408) 278-2001

eTranscribe

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii has started an eTranscribe business to

train individuals with disabilities to become medical transcriptionists and provide them contract work to perform from their homes using an array of technology including computers with voice activated software, the Internet, and Dictaphone equipment. Our eTranscribers prepare medical reports for doctors at an accuracy rate of 98%, with a 24-hour turnaround.

Contact: Maureen Bates, EE&T Director
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
email:maureenbates@juno.com
Tel: (808) 836-0313
Mail: 2610 Kiliahu Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology (FAAST)

The FAAST project is working with the Florida Department of Education's demonstration site to provide overlapping services for access to assistive technology outside the traditional school framework for adults beyond school age as well as those of school age. Minorities and the elderly are served.

Contact: Terry Ward PhD
Project Director
850/487-3278

Georgia Tools for Life

Nearly 27 percent (1,270,584) Georgians have one or more disabilities. Of these, nearly 14 percent (656,097) have severe disabilities requiring one or more kinds of assistive technology (LaPlante, et al, *Technology and Disabilities*, 6, pp. 17-28, 1997 and the 1990 U.S. Census Report). The Tools for Life project offers a computer-recycling center, called Re-Boot, that refurbished almost 1,000 computers in 1999. The ReBoot program is located at FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Contact: Joy Kniskern
404/657-3084

Global Assistive Technology Explorer (GATE)

CRT will develop and sustain the Global Assistive Technology Explorer (GATE), a comprehensive, up-to-date, easy-to-use national public Internet site on disability-related resources. GATE will increase the availability of and access to information about AT, services, and resources for individuals with disabilities. The site will provide 24-hour access to all those with Internet capability.

High School High Tech (HSHT)

A program called High School High Tech (HSHT) is in its third year of funding and we are a grant funded program, in collaboration with Grant Wood AEA in CR. Our program is for high school students with mild disabilities that have a desire to go onto a 2 or 4 year, that have a IEP or Accommodation Plan, they also have to have the desire to work in the field of Technology.

We currently work with 12 high schools, serve approx. 90 students and provide students with computer training, hands on web page design classes, job site tours, job site visits and internships. We also provide support for students that need the additional assistance getting to and from an activity, communicating with others and planning their future.

We currently are piloting the program in Iowa City and have been overwhelmed with the support from teachers, students and businesses. Between the two cities we have 35 businesses involved and we provide a wide array of activities to our students.

Contact: Deana Berg
319-393-3434
hsht@goodwillse Iowa.org

Iowa Program for Assistive Technology

The Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) worked with the Iowa Department for the Blind to develop a project to increase accessibility to the Internet for persons with disabilities. The first part of the project was the creation of a booklet, Designing Accessible Web Sites: Creating sites that are accessible to people with disabilities. The booklet discusses how persons with disabilities access and use the web, and contains instructions on how to create an accessible web site, including examples of accessible sites and other resources.

Another component of the project is to work with the state library system. Many individuals with disabilities do not own computers, but could access the Internet through their public library. The newsletter of the State Library is distributed to all of the state's 340 public and private libraries and will have an article about web access and the booklet. IPAT is coordinating with other entities and the State Librarian to work over the next few years on improving library access.

In order to ensure that future web sites become accessible, IPAT is collaborating with the Information Technology Services (ITS) office at the University of Iowa to develop training materials on web access as part of the ITS web master classes. Training materials will also be included in the ITS classes and courses on instructional design for faculty and students in the Department of Education.

Contacts: Mary Quigley
319/356-4402
Jane Gay

319/356-4463
Co-Directors
<http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech>

Lekotek

Lekotek is a nation-wide network of not-for-profit resource centers for children with disabilities and their families whose mission is to foster inclusion. We offer a variety of direct services including play with adapted toys and computers. One of our programs, called "Compuplay", utilizes a vast array of assistive technologies from switches to adapted keyboards to help children access the computer and the Internet.

Contact: Jennifer Frankfurter
lekotek@lekotek.org
Joyce Morimoto
jfrankfurter@yahoo.com
lekotek@lekotek.org
r-morimoto@nwu.edu

Merze Tate Center for Technology and Educational Reform

With the help of a \$200,000 grant from the IBM Community Access Program and another from Smartforce.com for 4,000 hours of on-line courseware, the Merze Tate Center for Technology and Educational Reform at Western Michigan University is leading a public-private initiative to develop a national on-line support center to help facilitate the training of people with disabilities for employment in the fast growing computer industry. An April 4, 2000 electronic ribbon cutting is planned in DC by the US Dept. of Ed Assistant Secretary for OSERS, Juith Heumann.

The purpose of this alliance is to provide on-line training support to member programs of the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT) and the Inter-national Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR). It is estimated that this will involve about 120 training programs across the nation that specialize in providing computer related training and employment assistance to adults with disabilities especially those are homebound.

It is the goal of this project to provide on-line information and training on career opportunities in the Informational Processing Industry in support of local training programs for people with disabilities as well as the professionals that serve them. Within this group of permanently displaced workers on the other side of the digital divide are most individuals with disabilities. According to the 1998 Harris Poll, employment continues to be the area with the widest gulf between those who are disabled and those who are not.

Contact: Robert J. Leneway
Senior Research Associate
Merze Tate Center for Research and Education Reform
3210 Sangren Hall

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Phone: (616) 387-2051
Fax: (616) 3876184
e-mail: bob.leneway@wmich.edu

Massachusetts Assistive Technology Partnership (MATP)

MATP has been very active in initiating and coordinating compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The project was instrumental in orchestrating Executive Order 348 signing (1/1/93) which establishes state policy for access to electronic equipment and information technologies for citizens with disabilities. The project trained 80 ADA coordinators on Section 508; developed Section 508-compliant PC Standards through the Governor's Advisory Council on IT; made GSA/COCA's *Managing Information Resources* manual available electronically and in print to state agencies upon request; provides technical assistance to state agencies in purchasing 508-compliant equipment; provided technical assistance in the development of an amendment to Section 508 on the federal level; advocated that the U.S. Department of Education develop a policy guidance to the state Department of Education regarding accessibility of educational technology and widely distributed Secretary Riley's letter to Massachusetts special education departments; and provide technical assistance on Section 508 implementation on the state level to other AT Act grantees.

Contact: Marilyn Howe
617-355-7820
<http://www.matp.org>

Motion Picture Access Project

With initial funding from the Dept. of Ed's NIDRR, we have developed digital technology that allows people who are deaf or blind to access closed captions or video descriptions in movie theaters. We have partnered with various Hollywood studios and the General Cinema theater chain to roll this out across the country. Our 12th site will be opening soon in DC at the Mazza Gallerie

Contact: Larry Goldberg
Larry_Goldberg@wgbh.org

National AT Internet Site

The Center for Rehabilitation Technology will operate a National AT Internet Site. The AT Act authorized a National AT Internet Site that would provide information to individuals with disabilities and the general public to increase access to AT devices, services, and other related information.

Nebraska Meeting Place

A listserv that connects persons with disabilities all across Nebraska. The program started with peer volunteers linked by computer e-mail. Peer volunteers who did not already have a computer were provided one on long term loan by the project and connected through free e-mail services such as Juno.

Net Corps

Americas sends high-tech volunteers throughout the Americas to custom design training for organizations and people who normally would not have access to information technology. We have recently developed a program specifically for people with disabilities and will start our pilot project sending volunteers to Transitions in Antigua, Guatemala.

Contact: Jessica Lewis
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, NW Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 458-3229 phone
(202) 458-3526 fax
trustamericas@oas.org

New Mexico Technology Assistance Program

The project provides technical assistance and training to set up a package of electronic and information technology accessible hardware /software features with existing computers for public access with public agencies and ed tech computer labs in schools.

Contact: Bill N. Newroe
Project Director
505/954-8539
<http://www.nmtap.com>

New York State TRAIID Project

The New York AT project assisted with the New York state policy from the Director of state agencies on making all state agencies' web sites accessible by July 2000 by following the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative. The New York TRAIID Project is referenced in the State Technology Policy office for agencies wishing to receive technical assistance on making their web sites accessible.

Contact: Deborah Buck
518/474-2825
<http://www.state.ny.us/disabledAdvocate/technlog.htm>

North Carolina Assistive Technology Project

The North Carolina project assists with the "Virtual Buddies Program." This program is funded through a private foundation that provides recycled computers and Internet access to people with disabilities around the State. The program also works at the local level to identify people knowledgeable about computers to assist new users. To date, the program has provided 76 adults with disabilities services including the following: training, a computer system, Internet access, computer upgrades, or modem.

The North Carolina project also coordinates a financial loan program through Nations Bank for people with disabilities seeking low-interest loans for assistive technology.

Contact: Ricki Cook
Project Director
919/850-2787
<http://www.mindspring.com/~ncatp>

Parents Helping Parents – iTECH Center

The goal of the iTECH Center is to ensure that children and adults with special needs, their families and the professionals who serve them are aware of and utilize technology to enhance potential and to broaden the quality and enjoyment of their lives. Underlying this goal is the belief that with the help of assistive technology, individuals with special needs will be able to enter the mainstream of all aspects of society and be fully contributing, visible members of society.

The iTECH Center is a resource center of the Alliance for Technology Access and also a program of Parents Helping Parents (PHP), Inc. in Santa Clara, CA. PHP, a nonprofit family resource center, is a Parent Training and Information Center and for 23 years has served children with physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities. The program is supported by a California Assistive Technology System (CATS) grant to provide information and referral services.

ReBoot

ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort of many groups and organizations committed to recycling computers. All participants in ReBoot's Computer Re-Utilization Project receive the equipment as a donation; they do not buy the equipment. ReBoot acquires the equipment, evaluates it, repairs it (if needed), loads licensed software, distributes the equipment to people with disabilities; and trains the people on the equipment. The program is operated 85 percent by volunteers—by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. ReBoot has 10 training centers across the state.

Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired (RSVI)

One of many sources for assistive technology. To be eligible for services from our agency, an individual must be visually impaired. If there are services offered by RSVI which will enable the individual to achieve vocational or independent living goals, this includes voice synthesizers on computers, closed circuit TVs, and print reading machines.

Contact: Kathy Hoell
khoell@radiks.net

RIPIN

I am the newly hired coordinator of a project here at RIPIN to help low income families who have children with disabilities gain access to hardware, software, training and support so they can gain information and better advocate for their children.

Contact: Millie Hillman
Rhode Island Parent Information Network
175 Main St.
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 727-4144 ext. 35

Technology Opportunities Project (Atlanta, GA)

A Telerehabilitation Network to Support Community Re-entry Following Catastrophic Injury. The overall goal of this project is to develop effective telerehabilitation applications using advanced network technologies. A test-bed network will be developed in the metro-Atlanta area to link rehabilitation professionals with patients who have sustained catastrophic spinal cord and brain injuries, their family members, and caregivers. The test-bed will emulate capabilities of the Next Generation Internet, including high-bandwidth videoconferencing, remote monitoring, environmental control, and high-speed delivery of interactive, multimedia instruction.

The network will be used to develop, deliver, and evaluate telerehabilitation applications which (a) support community re-entry after catastrophic injury, (b) prevent or reduce the severity of secondary complications often associated with catastrophic injury, and (c) deliver health and wellness support and advocacy assistance to people with disabilities living in the community.

The project expects to find that individuals who receive telerehabilitation: (1) achieve greater success in community reintegration (e.g., return to work), (2) experience fewer secondary complications; (3) demonstrate greater independence and self-efficacy; (4) incur lower overall health care and support costs; and (5) report higher satisfaction with their health-related quality of life.

The Family Center on Technology and Disability

The Family Center on Technology and Disability, a project funded by the U. S. Department of Education is designed to bring technology to individuals with disabilities. One of the projects of the Family Center was to select model programs around the country who are bringing technology to individuals with disabilities. Two of the important criterion for selection as a model program were service to underserved (e.g. rural, minority) communities and collaboration with other organizations in the community.

United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New Jersey (UCPA-NJ)

This agency's multiple technology-related projects share the common goal of helping individuals and families to identify the technology solutions that best meets their needs and to enable them to obtain and use the technology. The agency utilizes its extensive in-house technological expertise to assist individuals and families throughout the state by conducting evaluations and training, providing custom fabrication of devices, as well as other services.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk- Mobility Opportunities Via Education (MOVE)

The Children's Center, a division of UCP of Greater Suffolk, New York incorporated the MOVE program into its services in 1997. MOVE is a therapeutic and educational program designed to help people learn the skills needed for sitting, standing, and walking. This collaborative program utilizes the services and knowledge of parents, educators, therapists and other support personnel to help participants learn and practice skills while engaged in activities of daily living.

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB): DSB directs delivery of services for persons who are blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind. The available services and eligibility criteria are the same as those in the general VR. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (RCB) in Topeka is a comprehensive rehabilitation program offering independent living skills training, and vocational assessment and technology services to help consumers identify their employment-related skills, aptitudes and interests. Mobile teams are used to offer specific services throughout the state. Kansas Seniors Achieving Independent Living (KAN-SAIL) provides independent living skills training in the home communities of older Kansans who experience blindness or visual loss. Rehabilitation Teaching: Through this program, rehabilitation specialists go to consumers' homes and provides training to help them adjust to blindness and increase their independent living skills. Some of the training areas offered are communications, orientation and mobility, and daily living skills. The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) offers persons who are legally blind the opportunity to manage food service operations, vending stands, snack bars and gift shops. BEP uses funds generated by the vending stand operations, rather than SGF, to match federal funds. Kansas Industries for the Blind (KIB) in Topeka offers employment in manufacturing work and laser cartridge refurbishing for people who are blind and who are not immediately able to succeed in competitive employment.

Contact: Carolyn Perez

Services for the Blind
785-296-3311
Family Center on Technology and Disability
Susan Goodman
Project Director
(202) 973-7141
sgoodman@ucpa.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Kansas (UCP-K)--Purchase of Assistive Technology Project

The overarching goal of this project is to assist families who have assistive technology needs to secure the necessary equipment. Its primary activities include collaborating with state, civic and charitable organizations to develop innovative funding packages that will enable residents who have disabilities to obtain assistive technology. Annually, it strives to secure assistive technology and related services valued in excess of \$300,000 for at least 200 families from across the state.

An annual allocation from the state legislature to Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and a variety of grants and donations support the program.

Universal Access Protocol Coalition (UAPC)

The Universal Access Protocol Coalition (UAPC) is a coalition under development that will be comprised of organizations representing people with disabilities and other stakeholders that are committed to maximizing the accessibility of the Internet. The UAP Coalition will facilitate access to the Internet and other distributed computer networks by providing a service that dynamically adapts interfaces and content to each end-user's individualized needs and preferences, particularly people with disabilities. The result is optimal accessibility of the Internet by people with disabilities in addition to individually predetermined adaptations of the Internet according to individual preferences.

Contact: Greg McQuarter
858-452-9345
greg@mcquarter.com
Jane West
301-718-0979
jewest@aol.com

Virtual Buddies

The organization takes donated computers, and donated Internet accounts, and places them in the homes of low-income people with different disabilities. The Virtual Buddies program gives those of us who are socially isolated most of the time at our homes, a way to communicate with others, and better educate ourselves. We are just finishing a manual

that will make It easier for Disabled people to take College Courses via their computer at home, so we can continue our education, and get jobs too...

Contact: Timothy Barbour
Smithfield NC
919-989-9718
tbarbour@interpath.com

Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is an international project, hosted by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), focusing on making the Web accessible to the many millions of existing and potential Web users who have disabilities. The Web offers unprecedented access to information, electronic commerce, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, workplace communication, government services, recreation, and more; however there are currently barriers to accessing the Web for people with visual, hearing, physical and cognitive disabilities.

W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), in coordination with industry, disability organizations, research centers and government, addresses accessibility of the Web through five complementary activities:

- Ensuring that Web technologies support accessibility
- Developing guidelines for accessibility
- Developing tools to evaluate & facilitate accessibility
- Conducting education and outreach
- Coordinating with research and development

WAI is supported in part by funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, as well as other national governments, and industry. WAI's most well-known resources are its guidelines for accessible Web sites, browsers, and authoring tools. It also produces a variety of educational materials and training events on Web accessibility. More information is available at <http://www.w3.org/WAI>.

Contact: Judy Brewer
Director, Web Accessibility Initiative
617-258-9741
jbrewer@w3.org.

Winners on Wheels (WOW)

Winners on Wheels (WOW) is a national non-profit organization with programs designed for youth in wheelchairs. We call our participants Winners. The WOW programs aim to create an environment that encourages self-esteem, independence, and empowerment through activities done in groups (Circles) or individually via our write in program (Kids Connection) and Online Internet activities

(Wheels Online). In each instance the activities the Winners work on "Wheels," are based on a scouting type of curriculum separated into six activities (Spokes) each. When a Winner completes all six Spokes he/she is then rewarded with a badge designed specifically for that Wheel.

Promoting our program online has been a main focus of 1999 and is for the year 2000 and beyond. Several foundations have granted funds for converting our Wheels for individual and interactive Online use. With that The California Endowment has also granted funds for our National office to buy and distribute 9 laptop computers to Circles across the country. Another grant recently received will give us the opportunity to deliver these laptops and provide a web camp day of instruction with delivery.

Contact: John Houseman,
Executive Director
800-969-8255 ext. 02887
559-294-2887
or
Stephanie King
Winners On Wheels
800-969-8255 extension 02344
email: stephking@wowusa.com

**PROGRAMS & PROJECTS WORKING TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (DRAFT 00-03-09)**

[This is a work in progress, and will be updated with contact information, additional programs, and revisions of current descriptions]

ABLE-NET

ABLE-NET Internet Service, www.able-net.net, ABLE-NET Specializes in offering affordable, accessible Internet Access for People with Disabilities in 31 States and Canada.

Contact: John Kirby
(209) 556-9381
johnk@able-net.net

Access to Physics Interactive Video Tutor Project

The CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Educational Services to make an on-line interactive physics course accessible to students with disabilities. Known as "Access to PIVOT" (Physics Interactive Video Tutor), this three-year project will test, implement, document and promote the development of multimedia access solutions to make distance learning accessible to blind, low-vision, deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Contact: Larry Goldberg
617-300-3722

Adaptive and Assistive Technology

The name of our program is "Adaptive and Assistive Technology" The Community Adaptive and Assistive Technology Center offers personalized AAT services to people with disabilities and their families. Through Its Computer Arts for Recreation And Employability Program offered after school and on Saturdays, the CAAT Center, in collaboration with local vocational education high schools, gives hands-on training in computer arts, adaptive equipment services, evaluations, assistance in getting on-line and accessing the Internet, and free equipment upon availability.

Contact: Elizabeth Sunshine, Executive Director
NYSID
930 Willowbrook Road - Bldg. 41-A
Staten Island, New York 10314
Office: phone/fax 717-494-6457

Adaptive Computer Empowerment Services

ACES, a 60-person all-volunteer organization, recycles used computer hardware and software and distributes it, along with tech support services and tutoring, to low-income disabled persons in San Diego County.

Contact: Mary L. Adams
LCSW
Executive Director
madams@adaptive.org

Assistive Technology Library of Alaska (ATLA)

ATLA's goal is to help individuals and families overcome barriers to finding and accessing appropriate assistive technology. ATLA offers assessment/recommendations, provides sale or rental of technology products, and offers training in the use and maintenance of devices, and has a lending library. ATLA serves as a resource for people with disabilities from birth throughout the life span, parents, other family members, caregivers, educators and professionals.

A mix of state Technology Act funds, sales revenues, fee-for-service payments and membership fees supports the organization. In addition to maintaining a central office to coordinate on-site and off-site services, ATLA coordinates "The Alliance," a network of agencies and individuals throughout Alaska that offer technology assistance to families in outlying communities.

Assistive Technology Resource Center of Hawaii

Through extensive collaborations with community-based organizations and private partners, HATTS works to fulfill its goals of promoting increased awareness and greater access to assistive technology, and increasing consumer and provider skills, involvement and empowerment with technology. Consistent with the requirements of the Technology Act, its activities focus on helping rural and underserved communities gain access to technology.

ATTIC

ATTIC is an independent living center in SW Indiana. We have been a recipient of used computer equipment through the Christina Society and other groups. We have volunteer computer technicians who service or salvage the donated equipment, then we load donated software requested by individual to meet his/her needs, and system is given to consumers. This is a small project, but made a world of difference for some consumers especially students.

Contact: INATTIC1@aol.com

Bancroft e-solutions

Our project is designed to seek job openings that are conducive to telecommuting and matching them with applicants (who are based out of their homes) with skill sets based upon the job requirements. NH (as you may or may not know) has large disparity regarding access to the internet. Ideally we would like to go state wide with this project but are currently limited to high speed access areas only.

We have a Leadership Education In Nuerodevelopmental Disorders-MCH Interdisciplinary Training Project for graduate and post graduate students from 15 disciplines. One of our goals is not only to train them to have excellent clinical skills for working with persons with disabilities and their families but also how to effectively utilize assistive and telecommunications technology to enhance services and quality of life. We have a fiberoptic videoconferencing facility here and a closed circuit KidsTV network to hospital rooms and which can connect around the world as well as to over 270 schools right here in Indiana.

Contact: Dr. Lann E. Thompson, Associate Director
Riley Child Development Center
Riley Hospital for Children
702 Barnhill Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Career Training for Success Program

The Career Training for Success Program is a 26 week program designed to provide and enhance basic and advanced skills in several areas. We offer training in the following skill areas: computer operating systems, word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, database applications, presentation applications, internet applications, typing, filing, basic grammar, basic math, customer service, data entry, accounting, medical technology, medical office, job seeking, employee development, GED preparation, and adult literacy. The program is interactive and self-paced so consumers learn at their own rate, and actually work with computers and office machines as they receive individualized attention from instructors. We then "follow along" to offer support and guidance in actual job exploration and placement.

Contact: Paul Hubbard
Kcgwcost@sound.net
(816) 842-7425, ext.242
The Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries
1817 Campbell
Kansas City, Missouri, 64108-1794

CAST

CAST has been a leader in the development of the educational paradigm we call Universal Design for Learning(tm). We are working to make the general educational curriculum--the curriculum that "typical" learners encounter in our schools--accessible

and educationally relevant for everyone, including learners with disabilities and even gifted learners. The threshold requirement is that all educational curricular material be produced in a digital version. Once that requirement is met, there are a lot of tools available (including a product derived from CAST's own research, the CAST eReader) that can make the material useful by people with all sorts of disabilities.

CAST recently became the lead organization in the new National Center on Accessing the General Curriculum, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs and with our partners, Harvard Law, Boston College School of Education and the Council for Exceptional Children. The National Center will explore the implications for policy, teacher education, training and practice, and curriculum design, implied by Universal Design for Learning. We find that Universal Design for Learning (UDL) excites those with whom we are able to communicate, and we think that UDL can play a major role in addressing the Digital Divide..

Contact: Donald R. Giller
Chief Resource Development Officer
CAST, Inc.
Center for Applied Special Technology
39 Cross Street
Peabody, MA 01960
Tel. +1 978 531 8555
TTY +1 978 538-3110
Fax +1 531-0192
Email: dgiller@cast.org

CE Disabled Services

From our beginnings in 1982 as CE Disabled Services, with a staff of 3, to a current staff of 7, from having served 127 persons with disabilities in our first year, to providing services to over 1,500 individuals last year. In 1989, Disabled Network Center joined and became a part of our organization. CE Disabled Services has grown in size and in our commitment to serving those with disabilities.

CE Disabled Services takes pride in its almost two decades of education and advocacy efforts. We formed a coalition, which helped to promote awareness of disability access issues. We advocated with City, County, State and Federal agencies for regulations to reduce access problems. Our consumers advocated to make the Municipal Courts accessible. A settled lawsuit, filed by consumers, mandated the City of Oceanside become accessible. We strive to make our web site, those of the media, governmental entities and others accessible to users of speech output technology.

Contact: Dr Clyde Shideler
CE Disabled Services
P. O. Box 495

San Luis Rey, California 92068

Computer Recycling

The Tech Act Project and works initiated this program with the Natl. Christina Foundation to solicit computers from business and industry for refurbishing and redistribution to persons with disabilities.

Computer Recycling within state agencies

In order to make the best use of limited funds, the Tech Act Project works with Voc Rehab and Services for the Visually Impaired to provide used computers for their consumers who need them. VR and SVI provide the funding for necessary software and accessibility modifications for the individual.

Descriptive Video Service®, NCAM

The Caption Center, Descriptive Video Service® (DVS®), and the CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) hold two grants from NIDRR; both are directly addressing technical infrastructure barriers - the first of digital television and closed captioning and video description and the second regarding "convergence technology" and inaccessible user interfaces for such things as Web TV and other emerging hybrids of the Internet and television. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is also supporting our DTV Access work through a project called, "Accessing Public Broadcasting's Future."

Contact: Larry Goldberg
Director, Media Access
WGBH Educational Foundation
Internet: Larry_Goldberg@WGBH.org
617-300-3722 (direct voice/FAX)
617-300-3400 (main NCAM)
617-300-2489 (TTY)

DO-IT

People with disabilities successfully pursuing academics and careers.
Programs to promote the use of technology to maximize the independence, productivity and participation of people with disabilities.
Recipient of the National Information Infrastructure Award; Education and the President's Award of Excellence in Mentoring and showcased at The President's summit on Volunteerism.
People helping people achieve success.
Resources for you!

Contact: Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D.
University of Washington

Box 354842
Seattle, WA 98195-4842
206-685-DOIT (3648) -- voice/TTY

DPI

DPI is a nonprofit agency working in partnership with Silicon Valley businesses and the community to prepare people with disabilities for competitive employment. Through adaptive computer access technology and career transition services, DPI creates opportunities for significant advances in universal access, social integration and employment for people with disabilities.

Founded in 1980 as Disabled Programmers, Inc., by a former IBM executive whose son was paralyzed in a diving accident, DPI formerly taught people with disabilities computer programming. The agency was renamed DPI in 1995 and has since changed its focus to employment access for individuals with disabilities and work-related injuries.

DPI focuses on four primary programs:
School-To-Career
Internship
Computer Access Technology (CAT) Lab
Mobile Access Technology (MAT) Lab

DPI assists individuals 15-years of age or older that have all types of Served physical (ALS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, stroke,...), sensory (Low Vision, Blindness, Hard of Hearing,...), and learning disabilities, and work-related injuries (Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, De Quervain's, Tendonitis, etc.).

There is no cost to enroll in the School-To-Career Program. The Computer Access Technology Labs may require a fee for the evaluation and training of adaptive computer equipment and ergonomic worksite evaluation. Approved clients may be eligible to receive funding for services on a case-by-case basis or through corporate funding, the Department of Rehabilitation or Worker's Compensation insurance carriers.

Nearly 26 million Americans are classified as "severely" disabled, requiring of DPI personal or technological assistance to perform daily activities. People with disabilities now represent the largest minority in the U.S. Most importantly, DPI offers persons with disabilities the opportunity to work successfully in a competitive job market.

Contact: Maria F. Nicolacoudis
Executive Director DPI
(408) 278-2001

eTranscribe

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii has started an eTranscribe business to

train individuals with disabilities to become medical transcriptionists and provide them contract work to perform from their homes using an array of technology including computers with voice activated software, the Internet, and Dictaphone equipment. Our eTranscribers prepare medical reports for doctors at an accuracy rate of 98%, with a 24-hour turnaround.

Contact: Maureen Bates, EE&T Director
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
email:maureenbates@juno.com
Tel: (808) 836-0313
Mail: 2610 Kiliahu Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Florida Alliance for Assistive Service and Technology (FAAST)

The FAAST project is working with the Florida Department of Education's demonstration site to provide overlapping services for access to assistive technology outside the traditional school framework for adults beyond school age as well as those of school age. Minorities and the elderly are served.

Contact: Terry Ward PhD
Project Director
850/487-3278

Georgia Tools for Life

Nearly 27 percent (1,270,584) Georgians have one or more disabilities. Of these, nearly 14 percent (656,097) have severe disabilities requiring one or more kinds of assistive technology (LaPlante, et al, *Technology and Disabilities*, 6, pp. 17-28, 1997 and the 1990 U.S. Census Report). The Tools for Life project offers a computer-recycling center, called Re-Boot, that refurbished almost 1,000 computers in 1999. The ReBoot program is located at FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Contact: Joy Kniskern
404/657-3084

Global Assistive Technology Explorer (GATE)

CRT will develop and sustain the Global Assistive Technology Explorer (GATE), a comprehensive, up-to-date, easy-to-use national public Internet site on disability-related resources. GATE will increase the availability of and access to information about AT, services, and resources for individuals with disabilities. The site will provide 24-hour access to all those with Internet capability.

High School High Tech (HSHT)

A program called High School High Tech (HSHT) is in its third year of funding and we are a grant funded program, in collaboration with Grant Wood AEA in CR. Our program is for high school students with mild disabilities that have a desire to go onto a 2 or 4 year, that have a IEP or Accommodation Plan, they also have to have the desire to work in the field of Technology.

We currently work with 12 high schools, serve approx. 90 students and provide students with computer training, hands on web page design classes, job site tours, job site visits and internships. We also provide support for students that need the additional assistance getting to and from an activity, communicating with others and planning their future.

We currently are piloting the program in Iowa City and have been overwhelmed with the support from teachers, students and businesses. Between the two cities we have 35 businesses involved and we provide a wide array of activities to our students.

Contact: Deana Berg
319-393-3434
hsht@goodwillse Iowa.org

Iowa Program for Assistive Technology

The Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) worked with the Iowa Department for the Blind to develop a project to increase accessibility to the Internet for persons with disabilities. The first part of the project was the creation of a booklet, Designing Accessible Web Sites: Creating sites that are accessible to people with disabilities. The booklet discusses how persons with disabilities access and use the web, and contains instructions on how to create an accessible web site, including examples of accessible sites and other resources.

Another component of the project is to work with the state library system. Many individuals with disabilities do not own computers, but could access the Internet through their public library. The newsletter of the State Library is distributed to all of the state's 340 public and private libraries and will have an article about web access and the booklet. IPAT is coordinating with other entities and the State Librarian to work over the next few years on improving library access.

In order to ensure that future web sites become accessible, IPAT is collaborating with the Information Technology Services (ITS) office at the University of Iowa to develop training materials on web access as part of the ITS web master classes. Training materials will also be included in the ITS classes and courses on instructional design for faculty and students in the Department of Education.

Contacts: Mary Quigley
319/356-4402
Jane Gay

319/356-4463
Co-Directors
<http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech>

Lekotek

Lekotek is a nation-wide network of not-for-profit resource centers for children with disabilities and their families whose mission is to foster inclusion. We offer a variety of direct services including play with adapted toys and computers. One of our programs, called "Compuplay", utilizes a vast array of assistive technologies from switches to adapted keyboards to help children access the computer and the Internet.

Contact: Jennifer Frankfurter
lekotek@lekotek.org
Joyce Morimoto
jfrankfurter@yahoo.com
lekotek@lekotek.org
r-morimoto@nwu.edu

Merze Tate Center for Technology and Educational Reform

With the help of a \$200,000 grant from the IBM Community Access Program and another from Smartforce.com for 4,000 hours of on-line courseware, the Merze Tate Center for Technology and Educational Reform at Western Michigan University is leading a public-private initiative to develop a national on-line support center to help facilitate the training of people with disabilities for employment in the fast growing computer industry. An April 4, 2000 electronic ribbon cutting is planned in DC by the US Dept. of Ed Assistant Secretary for OSERS, Juith Heumann.

The purpose of this alliance is to provide on-line training support to member programs of the Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT) and the Inter-national Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR). It is estimated that this will involve about 120 training programs across the nation that specialize in providing computer related training and employment assistance to adults with disabilities especially those are homebound.

It is the goal of this project to provide on-line information and training on career opportunities in the Informational Processing Industry in support of local training programs for people with disabilities as well as the professionals that serve them. Within this group of permanently displaced workers on the other side of the digital divide are most individuals with disabilities. According to the 1998 Harris Poll, employment continues to be the area with the widest gulf between those who are disabled and those who are not.

Contact: Robert J. Leneway
Senior Research Associate
Merze Tate Center for Research and Education Reform
3210 Sangren Hall

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Phone: (616) 387-2051
Fax: (616) 3876184
e-mail: bob.leneway@wmich.edu

Massachusetts Assistive Technology Partnership (MATP)

MATP has been very active in initiating and coordinating compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The project was instrumental in orchestrating Executive Order 348 signing (1/1/93) which establishes state policy for access to electronic equipment and information technologies for citizens with disabilities. The project trained 80 ADA coordinators on Section 508; developed Section 508-compliant PC Standards through the Governor's Advisory Council on IT; made GSA/COCA's *Managing Information Resources* manual available electronically and in print to state agencies upon request; provides technical assistance to state agencies in purchasing 508-compliant equipment; provided technical assistance in the development of an amendment to Section 508 on the federal level; advocated that the U.S. Department of Education develop a policy guidance to the state Department of Education regarding accessibility of educational technology and widely distributed Secretary Riley's letter to Massachusetts special education departments; and provide technical assistance on Section 508 implementation on the state level to other AT Act grantees.

Contact: Marilyn Howe
617-355-7820
<http://www.matp.org>

Motion Picture Access Project

With initial funding from the Dept. of Ed's NIDRR, we have developed digital technology that allows people who are deaf or blind to access closed captions or video descriptions in movie theaters. We have partnered with various Hollywood studios and the General Cinema theater chain to roll this out across the country. Our 12th site will be opening soon in DC at the Mazza Gallerie

Contact: Larry Goldberg
Larry_Goldberg@wgbh.org

National AT Internet Site

The Center for Rehabilitation Technology will operate a National AT Internet Site. The AT Act authorized a National AT Internet Site that would provide information to individuals with disabilities and the general public to increase access to AT devices, services, and other related information.

Nebraska Meeting Place

A listserv that connects persons with disabilities all across Nebraska. The program started with peer volunteers linked by computer e-mail. Peer volunteers who did not already have a computer were provided one on long term loan by the project and connected through free e-mail services such as Juno.

Net Corps

Americas sends high-tech volunteers throughout the Americas to custom design training for organizations and people who normally would not have access to information technology. We have recently developed a program specifically for people with disabilities and will start our pilot project sending volunteers to Transitions in Antigua, Guatemala.

Contact: Jessica Lewis
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, NW Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 458-3229 phone
(202) 458-3526 fax
trustamericas@oas.org

New Mexico Technology Assistance Program

The project provides technical assistance and training to set up a package of electronic and information technology accessible hardware /software features with existing computers for public access with public agencies and ed tech computer labs in schools.

Contact: Bill N. Newroe
Project Director
505/954-8539
<http://www.nmtap.com>

New York State TRAIID Project

The New York AT project assisted with the New York state policy from the Director of state agencies on making all state agencies' web sites accessible by July 2000 by following the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative. The New York TRAIID Project is referenced in the State Technology Policy office for agencies wishing to receive technical assistance on making their web sites accessible.

Contact: Deborah Buck
518/474-2825
<http://www.state.ny.us/disabledAdvocate/technlog.htm>

North Carolina Assistive Technology Project

The North Carolina project assists with the "Virtual Buddies Program." This program is funded through a private foundation that provides recycled computers and Internet access to people with disabilities around the State. The program also works at the local level to identify people knowledgeable about computers to assist new users. To date, the program has provided 76 adults with disabilities services including the following: training, a computer system, Internet access, computer upgrades, or modem.

The North Carolina project also coordinates a financial loan program through Nations Bank for people with disabilities seeking low-interest loans for assistive technology.

Contact: Ricki Cook
Project Director
919/850-2787
<http://www.mindspring.com/~ncatp>

Parents Helping Parents – iTECH Center

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ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort of many groups and organizations committed to recycling computers. All participants in ReBoot's Computer Re-Utilization Project receive the equipment as a donation; they do not buy the equipment. ReBoot acquires the equipment, evaluates it, repairs it (if needed), loads licensed software, distributes the equipment to people with disabilities; and trains the people on the equipment. The program is operated 85 percent by volunteers—by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. ReBoot has 10 training centers across the state.

Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired (RSVI)

One of many sources for assistive technology. To be eligible for services from our agency, an individual must be visually impaired. If there are services offered by RSVI which will enable the individual to achieve vocational or independent living goals, this includes voice synthesizers on computers, closed circuit TVs, and print reading machines.

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RIPIN

I am the newly hired coordinator of a project here at RIPIN to help low income families who have children with disabilities gain access to hardware, software, training and support so they can gain information and better advocate for their children.

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Technology Opportunities Project (Atlanta, GA)

A Telerehabilitation Network to Support Community Re-entry Following Catastrophic Injury. The overall goal of this project is to develop effective telerehabilitation applications using advanced network technologies. A test-bed network will be developed in the metro-Atlanta area to link rehabilitation professionals with patients who have sustained catastrophic spinal cord and brain injuries, their family members, and caregivers. The test-bed will emulate capabilities of the Next Generation Internet, including high-bandwidth videoconferencing, remote monitoring, environmental control, and high-speed delivery of interactive, multimedia instruction.

The network will be used to develop, deliver, and evaluate telerehabilitation applications which (a) support community re-entry after catastrophic injury, (b) prevent or reduce the severity of secondary complications often associated with catastrophic injury, and (c) deliver health and wellness support and advocacy assistance to people with disabilities living in the community.

The project expects to find that individuals who receive telerehabilitation: (1) achieve greater success in community reintegration (e.g., return to work), (2) experience fewer secondary complications; (3) demonstrate greater independence and self-efficacy; (4) incur lower overall health care and support costs; and (5) report higher satisfaction with their health-related quality of life.

The Family Center on Technology and Disability

The Family Center on Technology and Disability, a project funded by the U. S. Department of Education is designed to bring technology to individuals with disabilities. One of the projects of the Family Center was to select model programs around the country who are bringing technology to individuals with disabilities. Two of the important criterion for selection as a model program were service to underserved (e.g. rural, minority) communities and collaboration with other organizations in the community.

United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New Jersey (UCPA-NJ)

This agency's multiple technology-related projects share the common goal of helping individuals and families to identify the technology solutions that best meets their needs and to enable them to obtain and use the technology. The agency utilizes its extensive in-house technological expertise to assist individuals and families throughout the state by conducting evaluations and training, providing custom fabrication of devices, as well as other services.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk- Mobility Opportunities Via Education (MOVE)

The Children's Center, a division of UCP of Greater Suffolk, New York incorporated the MOVE program into its services in 1997. MOVE is a therapeutic and educational program designed to help people learn the skills needed for sitting, standing, and walking. This collaborative program utilizes the services and knowledge of parents, educators, therapists and other support personnel to help participants learn and practice skills while engaged in activities of daily living.

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB): DSB directs delivery of services for persons who are blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind. The available services and eligibility criteria are the same as those in the general VR. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (RCB) in Topeka is a comprehensive rehabilitation program offering independent living skills training, and vocational assessment and technology services to help consumers identify their employment-related skills, aptitudes and interests. Mobile teams are used to offer specific services throughout the state. Kansas Seniors Achieving Independent Living (KAN-SAIL) provides independent living skills training in the home communities of older Kansans who experience blindness or visual loss. Rehabilitation Teaching: Through this program, rehabilitation specialists go to consumers' homes and provides training to help them adjust to blindness and increase their independent living skills. Some of the training areas offered are communications, orientation and mobility, and daily living skills. The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) offers persons who are legally blind the opportunity to manage food service operations, vending stands, snack bars and gift shops. BEP uses funds generated by the vending stand operations, rather than SGF, to match federal funds. Kansas Industries for the Blind (KIB) in Topeka offers employment in manufacturing work and laser cartridge refurbishing for people who are blind and who are not immediately able to succeed in competitive employment.

Contact: Carolyn Perez

Services for the Blind
785-296-3311
Family Center on Technology and Disability
Susan Goodman
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United Cerebral Palsy of Kansas (UCP-K)--Purchase of Assistive Technology Project

The overarching goal of this project is to assist families who have assistive technology needs to secure the necessary equipment. Its primary activities include collaborating with state, civic and charitable organizations to develop innovative funding packages that will enable residents who have disabilities to obtain assistive technology. Annually, it strives to secure assistive technology and related services valued in excess of \$300,000 for at least 200 families from across the state.

An annual allocation from the state legislature to Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and a variety of grants and donations support the program.

Universal Access Protocol Coalition (UAPC)

The Universal Access Protocol Coalition (UAPC) is a coalition under development that will be comprised of organizations representing people with disabilities and other stakeholders that are committed to maximizing the accessibility of the Internet. The UAPC Coalition will facilitate access to the Internet and other distributed computer networks by providing a service that dynamically adapts interfaces and content to each end-user's individualized needs and preferences, particularly people with disabilities. The result is optimal accessibility of the Internet by people with disabilities in addition to individually predetermined adaptations of the Internet according to individual preferences.

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Virtual Buddies

The organization takes donated computers, and donated Internet accounts, and places them in the homes of low-income people with different disabilities. The Virtual Buddies program gives those of us who are socially isolated most of the time at our homes, a way to communicate with others, and better educate ourselves. We are just finishing a manual

that will make It easier for Disabled people to take College Courses via their computer at home, so we can continue our education, and get jobs too...

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Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is an international project, hosted by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), focusing on making the Web accessible to the many millions of existing and potential Web users who have disabilities. The Web offers unprecedented access to information, electronic commerce, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, workplace communication, government services, recreation, and more; however there are currently barriers to accessing the Web for people with visual, hearing, physical and cognitive disabilities.

W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), in coordination with industry, disability organizations, research centers and government, addresses accessibility of the Web through five complementary activities:

- Ensuring that Web technologies support accessibility
- Developing guidelines for accessibility
- Developing tools to evaluate & facilitate accessibility
- Conducting education and outreach
- Coordinating with research and development

WAI is supported in part by funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, as well as other national governments, and industry. WAI's most well-known resources are its guidelines for accessible Web sites, browsers, and authoring tools. It also produces a variety of educational materials and training events on Web accessibility. More information is available at <http://www.w3.org/WAI>.

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Winners on Wheels (WOW)

Winners on Wheels (WOW) is a national non-profit organization with programs designed for youth in wheelchairs. We call our participants Winners. The WOW programs aim to create an environment that encourages self-esteem, independence, and empowerment through activities done in groups (Circles) or individually via our write in program (Kids Connection) and Online Internet activities

(Wheels Online). In each instance the activities the Winners work on "Wheels," are based on a scouting type of curriculum separated into six activities (Spokes) each. When a Winner completes all six Spokes he/she is then rewarded with a badge designed specifically for that Wheel.

Promoting our program online has been a main focus of 1999 and is for the year 2000 and beyond. Several foundations have granted funds for converting our Wheels for individual and interactive Online use. With that The California Endowment has also granted funds for our National office to buy and distribute 9 laptop computers to Circles across the country. Another grant recently received will give us the opportunity to deliver these laptops and provide a web camp day of instruction with delivery.

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