

**SHLB COALITION APPLAUDS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION
FOR FUNDING BROADBAND FOR COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS**

**Majority of 66 Grant/Loan Awards Announced Today Will Bring High-Speed Broadband to
Schools, Libraries and Health Care Providers**

Washington, D.C. (July 2, 2010) – The Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition applauds the Obama Administration for recognizing the importance of providing community anchor institutions with high-capacity broadband connections in today’s announcement of 66 broadband grants and loans. The SHLB Coalition, representing 58 public and private organizations, was founded in June 2009 to promote high-capacity, open and affordable broadband connections for community anchor institutions, such as schools, libraries and health care providers. High-capacity broadband connections are increasingly essential to these institutions’ ability to provide educational, health and learning services to all, especially to vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of the American public.

The following quote can be attributed to John Windhausen, Jr., Coordinator of the SHLB Coalition:

“Today’s announcement of sixty-six grant broadband funding awards demonstrates the continued commitment of the Obama Administration to improving the broadband capabilities of community anchor institutions. We are very pleased that so many of these awards will directly benefit schools, libraries and health care providers across the country, allowing them to bring distance learning, telemedicine, jobs and job search capabilities, and e-government services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations that need access to broadband services to participate fully in the 21st century. The grant to Internet2 and National LambdaRail for the U.S.UCAN (Unified Community Anchor Network) is especially visionary, as this project will tie together state and regional networks across the country and provide enormously high-capacity bandwidth to anchor institutions for decades to come. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Rural Utility Service deserve to be commended for their commitments to broadband investment, which will generate long-term economic growth, create jobs, and lower the cost of essential services for all Americans.”

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