

## **May 20, 2015 Workshop on E-rate Funded Fiber Build Projects -- Presenter/Expert Bios**

### **Panel 1: Overview of E-rate Fiber Rules**

#### **Joe Freddoso**

Joe Freddoso is the Co-Founder and COO of Mighty River, LLC, an advise and do company in the broadband infrastructure space. In July 2014, Joe completed a 7-year stint as President and CEO of MCNC. MCNC operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), which provides broadband connectivity to most Community Anchor Institutions in North Carolina. During Joe's time at MCNC, the organization completed a \$144 million dollar expansion of NCREN, called the Golden LEAF Rural Broadband Initiative (GLRBI). This expansion included building over 1800 miles of new fiber optic infrastructure, acquiring 800 miles of fiber optic infrastructure through Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) agreements and adding these fiber assets to the NCREN network. The result is an NCREN that covers over 80% of North Carolina's counties. Joe also led the effort to negotiate the fiber leases as the lessee and the lessor and all types of lit service, colocation, above the net services arrangements. MCNC successfully IRU'd to broadband service providers over \$15 million of fiber on the GLRBI.

### **Panel 2: Statewide and Regional Case Studies**

#### *Project Presenters:*

#### **Jeff Egly**

As an Associate Director within UEN's Technical Services Jeff Egly has oversight of UEN's Technical Services Support Center (Technical Services Support Center – TSSC), UEN Field Operations, UEN Project Managers, and UEN Application Engineering. Mr. Egly managed the field implementation of a multiphase/multiyear project to transition UEN's legacy fiber transport and state-wide microwave network to a gigabit Ethernet network built upon a dense-wave-division-multiplexed (DWDM) transport. This project included locations throughout Utah and required project coordination with Qwest Communications, many of Utah's rural service providers, UEN stakeholders and UEN Field Engineers located in Salt Lake and regional field offices. Mr. Egly has oversight of UEN's collaborative video network and has managed multiple upgrades to this statewide video network to meet Utah's growing distance education needs within K12 and higher education. Mr. Egly is actively involved in southeastern Utah's Four Corners region collaborating with UEN stakeholders on the funding and implementation of broadband services and video based distance education solutions.

#### **Ken Wiggin**

A graduate of the Simmons Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Mr. Wiggin has served as Connecticut State Librarian since October 1998. Prior to arriving in Connecticut, Mr. Wiggin had worked in academic and public libraries in New Hampshire where he also served as State Librarian for eight years. Over the past 16 years Mr. Wiggin has worked closely with the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, Connecticut Library Association, the Connecticut Library Consortium, the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, and others to advance library service to the citizens of Connecticut. Mr. Wiggin has served on a variety of boards and commissions, including the Federal Depository Library Council and

the OCLC Members Council. Currently he serves on the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission; the Commission on Educational Technology, the Connecticut History Online Management Committee; the Selection Committee for the Hale Award and is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is active with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) where he was recently elected president. Mr. Wiggin has served the American Library Association in many capacities including as an ALA Councilor representing the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies and is a past chair of ALA's Committee on Legislation and most recently served on the Nominating Committee.

### **John Gillispie**

John Gillispie leads the Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet), one of the nation's first and largest research and education networks, serving nearly 800 Missouri organizations, including school districts, public libraries, higher-education institutions and government agencies. In addition to his role at MOREnet, John is leading the Enterprise Applications Services (EAS) group in the Division of IT as Associate Vice President. EAS maintains the applications that serve the entire UM enterprise such as Human Resource, Payroll, Finance, etc. Prior to joining MOREnet, Gillispie served as executive director of the Iowa Communications Network. Concurrently, Gillispie held the positions of Chief Operating Officer for the Information Technology Enterprise for the Iowa Department of Administrative Services and Chief Information Officer for Iowa, overseeing daily operations of information technology and shared services throughout state government.

*Experts:*

### **Lorrie Germann**

Lorrie Germann, with Ohio Collaborative Services Consortium, is the Ohio State E-Rate Coordinator, providing E-Rate support to both schools and libraries in the state. She has held this position for seven years, but has been involved with E-Rate since its inception.

### **Brent Fontana**

Brent Fontana leads Zayo Group's Dark Fiber Construction Services unit working with the k-12 schools, and other public anchor institutions across the country. He has 14 years telecommunications experience and has served in a variety of product and strategy functions, and previously as product and strategy lead for Zayo's European Business Unit. Prior to Zayo, Brent held a variety of leadership roles where he was responsible for access management, M&A integrations, network and infrastructure planning and development, and strategy. Brent earned his bachelors degree in Economics from Lewis & Clark College in Portland Oregon.

## **Panel 3: School District and Local Case Studies**

*Project Presenters:*

### **Rob Dietrich**

Rob serves as the Director of Accountability and Technology at Lee County Schools. He oversees the Student Information System, as well as state testing for Lee County Schools. He also oversees the

hardware and infrastructure in the district on the technology side. Prior to his current position, Rob worked in administration as an Assistant Principal and Principal, and before that, taught for five years as a Social Studies teacher. Rob served in the Marines for two years before attending NC State to earn a bachelor's degree in History Education and a master's degree in School Administration. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate from Wingate University.

### **Rocco DiSanto**

Dr. Rocco DiSanto, DDS is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer BroadPlex, LLC. Since founding BroadPlex in 1999 Dr. DiSanto has guided the growth and development of the organization as a provider of fiber optic based communications solutions to clients principally in underserved markets. Dr. DiSanto is a Duke University trained engineer, having also completed studies in Optical Physics at Cornell University and training as a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) at UNC-Chapel Hill.

### **Michael Moore**

Mike Moore has been in the educational profession for thirty two years. He began as a teacher/coach, became a principal and has served as the Superintendent of Education for eight years. He has been in charge of the financial, physical, and educational responsibilities for the school district. Mr. Moore is dedicated to serving students, families and communities, and he has been instrumental in preparing the three county school students to compete in today's world. He understands the importance of providing students with the very latest tools in order for them to be successful. It has been Mr. Moore's mission to improve the technology availability for all students and staff and has diligently worked to accomplish this endeavor.

### **Brad Skinner**

Brad Skinner has been in the technology field for 21 years. He began working as a Computer Technician in the private sector for three years prior to working at Calhoun County School District. Mr. Skinner started at Calhoun County Schools as a Network Administrator/Computer Technician with the responsibility of servicing eight schools in the district with its technology repairs and installations. Mr. Skinner later became Technology Coordinator for the district overseeing the operation of the Technology Department and continues to serve Vardaman Schools as a Computer Technician.

*Experts:*

### **Sheryl Abshire**

As the Chief Technology Officer for the Calcasieu Parish Public Schools for nineteen years, Dr. Sheryl Abshire has served as a catalyst to initiate the integration of technology throughout the nation and internationally by providing leadership on numerous national, state and district committees focusing on the role of technology and curriculum in changing educational practice. As a forty-two year veteran educator, she has worked as a school principal, K-5 teacher, a library/media specialist, a classroom teacher, and as a university professor. In 2010 she was appointed by the FCC to the USAC board representing the nation's schools and libraries on ERate matters. Sheryl has been responsible for her district's ERate processes since the inception of the program. She was the 2013 recipient of the National Coalition for Technology in Education & Training, NCTET Community Builder Award for exemplary

service in support of policies and practices designed to facilitate the effective integration of technology into teaching and learning across the nation's education system. Dr. Abshire is a board member and past chair of CoSN – The Consortium for School Networking in Washington, DC.

### **Greg Green**

Greg Green is a Spokane-area based businessman and entrepreneur who got his start in the technology industry in the mid-1980s. He is the founder of Tel-West (now part of XO Communications) and OneEighty Communications (acquired by Avista Corporation and renamed Avista Communications). In 2010, Green partnered with Shawn Swanby, founder and President of Ednetics (a provider of technology solutions to the education community), to create a company, Fatbeam, that would deliver high capacity fiber optic transport services to underserved markets in the education, healthcare, and government markets. In 4 years, as the President of Fatbeam, Green has grown the company's fiber networks throughout the Pacific Northwest and into Montana and Wyoming servicing over 20 markets.

### **Yasmin Narielvala**

Yasmin is the Director of District Programs at EducationSuperHighway: a non-profit supporting public schools across America upgrade their Internet access so that all students can take advantage of the promise of digital learning. Yasmin is responsible for leading the organization's District focused initiatives – working together with districts to make upgrades easier, more affordable and more accessible for K-12 districts across the US. Yasmin has nearly 20 years of experience in the telecoms sector globally, working at the intersection of telecoms technology and strategy. She has a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Commerce degree from the University of Sydney.

### **Panel 4: Fiber Planning Tools**

*Presenters:*

#### **Sarah Klein**

Sarah Klein is the Administrator of the Division of Business & Communications Services at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. As the Commission's COO, she leads a talented team of professionals to ensure high-quality business, financial and IT services to the agency and its constituency. In 2013, Sarah was given oversight of the Commission's Communications Services division, which includes limited telecommunications regulation and broadband mapping and planning. She now knows the difference between a CLEC and ILEC; a gigabit and a gigabyte. She has worked for the state of Wisconsin for more than 10 years, with eight years at the Commission. Prior to her work in government, Sarah was a copyeditor and writer for 6 years in both print and electronic media.

#### **Matt Stark**

Matt Stark has been the Technical Services Manager for Genesee Intermediate School District in Flint, Michigan since 1999, where he helped design and establish one of the first K-12 countywide fiber optic consortium networks in Michigan called GenNET. Most recently, Matt created a Shared Technical Services division and has entered into partnerships with state and local government agencies to share

resources. Prior to joining GISD, Matt held various technical and operations management positions with LASON, Sprint, General Motors, EDS and also spent 8-years in the US Navy as a nuclear propulsion plant supervisor. Matt has an MBA in Engineering Management from Baker College, a BS from the State University of New York in Computer Science, along with multiple project management and technical certifications. Matt is currently on the SEN Advisory Council, where he has been a part of the team designing and overseeing a collaborative effort to build the Michigan State Educational Network.