Research & Education Networks
Role in Economic Development

Jen Leasure, The Quilt
Carol Farnham, MIDnet, Inc.
Project Overview

- Spring 2007, The Quilt and MIDnet launched a collaborative effort to collect case studies of RON business models
- Found that mission statements often included the support of economic development
- Numerous studies have shown positive impact broadband has on economic development
- What happens when you have high-speed, scalable, adaptable and secure research and education networks?
Project Overview

- Spring 2009, project began
- First considered a scientific study
  - New Zealand has completed one for KAREN and REANNZ
  - No uniform data collection in the US
    - Stimulus program demonstrated need
- Decided on a more anecdotal approach
  - Collect stories of successful projects that could not have happened without the network
  - Panel members will showcase those stories
In February of 2009, the federal government announced the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)

- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued in July 2009
- U.S Government set aside $6 billion for broadband services in unserved and underserved areas to strengthen the economy and provide business and job opportunities in every section of America with benefits to eCommerce, education, and healthcare.

- Specifically prioritizes broadband service for anchor institutions. Section 6001(b)
  - (3) provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to—
  - (A) schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations
Broadband Economic Development

• Significant topic of interest for regional and state research and education networks
  – Serving community anchor institutions is the foundation of many of the regional R&E networks
  – One of the BTOP statutory purposes is stimulating broadband, economic growth, and job creation.
  – Came to the realization that we have not done a good job of promoting our success stories outside of our community - especially capturing data driven examples
First Round Broadband Infrastructure Proposal Submissions

- 13 regional and state networking organizations or higher education institutions submitted applications requesting $859M funds in the first round (proposals required to provide 20% matching funds)
- Proposals required an estimate for number of jobs created by the broadband project
  - A formula for estimating job creation from the provided on the [http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/Estimate-of-Job-Creation/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/Estimate-of-Job-Creation/) websites uses the rule that $92,000 of government spending creates 1 job-year
  - Using this formula, if successful, these 12 applications would add approximately 9,344 jobs
  - Note that the 11 proposals that reported job creation/preservation estimated a total of 18,000 jobs
Broadband Economic Development

- Lessons Learned from Initial Work on BTOP Proposals
  - Important to have these data elements archived and available as resources for the community
  - Believe the BIP/BTOP programs will be the beginning of a new effort to capture and report these types of data elements
  - Seeking input from the community on best approach
Panel Information

- Ana Preston, Internet2, apreston@internet2.edu
- Carol Farnham, MIDnet, Inc., cfarnham@signa-solutions.com
- Jen Leasure, The Quilt, jen@thequilt.net
- Lonnie Leger, LONI, lonnie@lsu.edu
- Connie Lake, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, clake@osrhe.edu
- Cris Landgraf, Albuquerque GigaPoP, crisl@unm.edu