



January 13, 2012
Mark Johnson
Interim Executive Director
U.S. UCAN

Dear Mark and Colleagues,

The Pacific Northwest GigaPoP (PNWGP) is eager to participate in the *U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program*. We believe that we are extraordinarily well positioned with CAI sectors in at least the State of Washington to make quick and important progress on our community's U.S. UCAN goals. We have the exceptional track record of successful and innovative results oriented collaboration with other regionals, Internet2 and our respective members in the advanced networking and related broad community building and service structuring endeavors that we collectively need to make U.S. UCAN successful. As a now more 25 year old multi-state regional networking community, we also provide a vehicle for working not just in the State of Washington, though that will be our primary initial focus, but also via our strong relationships and proven record of successful collaboration via Universities across the Pacific Northwest in the states of Alaska, Montana and Hawaii.

ALIGNMENT OF PNWGP MISSION & GOALS WITH U.S. UCAN - Both in its initial instantiation as the partially NSF funded multi-state NorthWestNet, and our current PNWGP multi-state regional optical network based organization, the PNWGP community and organization has been dedicated to, and highly successful at, reaching out to, engaging, enlisting and including the broadest range of CAI's in our participatory multi-state regional networking and advanced application endeavors. Unusual among our peers, we have always had the view that networking is a fundamentally geographical activity, where it is important to seek out, as we always have, and engage as many CAI's as possible in each and every geography we're able to serve (modulo the (evolving) realities of the availability of infrastructure and funding). Unlike many regional networks, from the very start – even in the original NSFnet -- we have sought, and achieved, strong participation from not only universities but also non-PhD granting colleges, libraries, public and private k12, community and technical colleges, hospitals, federal agency labs and research sites (including DoE PNNL, and NOAA PMEL etc.), Washington State government, and a number of local governmental bodies and jurisdictions, as well as private sector entities ranging from start-ups to the R&D parts of major corporations including Microsoft and Boeing etc. This highly inclusive view of, and approach to advanced networking and related applications and services is deeply imbued in our roots and in our core DNA, and it remains at the heart of our past and current mission, goals and strategy.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE (AND OTHER PNWGP MEMBER STATES (e.g. HI, AS, MT)) - PNWGP has a wide social network of partnerships and working collaborations with key CAI organizations and leadership across the State of Washington; and also has long standing and very strong working relationships with PNWGP's long standing and influential members across Washington, Alaska, Hawaii and Montana who are also seeing to orchestrate state level U.S. UCAN related CAI outreach efforts.

PUBLIC SAFETY & THE COURTS - Over the past 2 years PNWGP has worked with the leadership of Washington State's statewide Administrative Office of the Courts, senior representative Judges from municipal, county and state levels, top law enforcement leadership at both state and county levels, the leadership of the primary public civil law aid organization, and 'access to justice' advocates to both: successfully create a working group seeking to explore the options for working together to enable broadband network access for this entire interrelated community; and, to formulate the related 'JusticeNet' component of a successful NIA BTOP proposal. We are members of and we directly and actively participate in this statewide multi-sector governance and

initiatives process. At this juncture we are collectively deliberating on our next steps while awaiting completion of some of the BTOP implementations.

LIBRARIES - From the very beginning of the NSFnet, PNWGP has sought out and included libraries as participants/connectors and presently has 30 libraries directly connected and participating. And, over the past 3 years PNWGP has worked with the State Librarian, the 'Library School' component of the University of Washington iSchool and others to conduct a statewide process including visits to libraries around the state to bring them into an NTIA-BTOP oriented coalition to establish a statewide 'LibraryNet' throughout the state of Washington. That is among our priorities for the forthcoming year. Our on-going relationships here also include long standing direct relationships with the leadership of the major libraries and library systems of the state as well as both the Gates Foundation and the parts of Microsoft that have a strong focus on Libraries who remain eager to find ways to help support and stimulate better connectivity (and applications and content access) for libraries of all kinds.

K12 SCHOOLS - PNWGP's predecessor organizational instantiation 'NorthWestNet' was among the 1st regional networks in the country to connect public and private k12 institutions to the NSFnet/Internet (some of whom still, despite being k12 sites still have the original .edu domain names we secured for them :-)) and has since worked intensively with the statewide K-12 communities. In the early 1990's PNWGP worked intensively with Washington's Legislators, Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Educational Service Districts (ESDs), teachers (where PNWGP partnered in bringing NSF and other funded training to STEM teachers statewide), leading school districts and others, including both the State's Community Colleges and Universities and colleges to establish a statewide K-20 network which quickly came to reach all 306 school districts (and ESD's) and most of the schools in the state. This statewide K-20 network with 497 direct connections to our backbone continues to operate on PNWGP's regional network infrastructure via a strong continuing collaboration of K12 leadership with PNWGP and the other educational sectors in the state. The next phase of this effort is to establish working relationships with the remainder of the private K-12 schools mainly via their regional associations but also through selective direct contact. And the next phase for all of us is pursuing more advanced applications, content and collaboration capabilities.

MUSEUMS - In the state of Washington the overwhelming majority of museums are directly affiliated with governmental or university bodies, and as such many of them already ride on PNWGP infrastructure as part of PNWGP's relationships with the State's governmental bodies and Universities & Colleges. However this is an area where PNWGP has few important relationships with the principals in museums, and hence this is an arena where we are hoping we can learn from others in the US-UCAN pilot group so we can better leverage our existing connectivity.

GOVERNMENT - PNWGP has exceptionally strong and long standing working relationships with both the State IT organization and also the largest cities and counties in Washington State (to which PNWGP established connectivity in the 1990's). PNWGP presently provides the statewide network infrastructure which carries both the State's 'Intranet' ('SGN' which serves most State agencies), and a similar, and at this point small but growing, Inter-Governmental Network (IGN) which seeks to achieve connectivity to and participation by the majority of the State's 39 counties, 207 recognized cities, plus other towns and various public safety and hospital 'districts'. As part of this ongoing partnership PNWGP is presently working with the State to considerably upgrade and extend the SGN (which rides on PNWGP's infrastructure), and also to considerably ramp up participation in the IGN via a collaborative process including PNWGP that will include more direct involvement of the already self-organized State county and city IT organization, and cities counties and other 'districts' which seek to be early adopters. Given that a significant number of the libraries and public health offices in the state, as well as fire and police, and the great majority of the court and other public safety organizations in Washington are affiliated with the cities and counties and/or are or seek to part of the city/county local loop and MAN network infrastructures, and hope to be part of the statewide fabric we provide, we believe that this next phase of collaborative engagement with them and the CAIs they effectively 'house' will be key to having success in bringing a much larger set of such CAIs together via our advanced networks.

PNWGP has also long had US governmental sites such as fisheries and other marine sciences laboratories and sites as participants and active members. These ongoing relationships position us well for a next phase of bringing more Federal Government sites onto our advanced network infrastructure in Washington.

HEALTH SERVICES - Since the early days of the NSFnet over 20 years ago, PNWGP and its predecessor instantiation (called NorthWestNet (a 'brand' that was sold in the post-NSFnet era, and hence we could no longer use) have reached out to, included and connected the primary regional Veterans Hospital and a handful of major primary care hospitals as well as academic medical centers, in both Washington and elsewhere across the pacific northwest. It is perhaps noteworthy in the U.S. UCAN context that PNWGP also provides wide area networking support to the University of Washington's geographically distributed academic medical center's hospitals & clinics, and its School of Medicine's 'WWAMI' program under which the UW literally serves as the medical school for all of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho and receives funding for that purpose from the legislatures of those states, and as a part of that maintains sites and conducts programs in all those states. A byproduct of this is that PNWGP enjoys direct relationships, and influence with medical leadership and many related clinics and hospitals across all 5 WWAMI states. We also provide connectivity to 22 tele-medicine sites, as well as the main US military hospital (Madigan) in Washington. Additionally, over the past 3 years PNWGP has partnered with the Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts (AWPHD) and specific districts, to establish a strong working partnership in this sector. That led to a joint initiative that has identified and reached out to all of the roughly 50 (local supported) community hospitals/clinics distributed across the state, and which is actively recruiting them to an effort to establish a Washington statewide 'HealthNet'. This effort included participation in a successful BTOP proposal and award. This ongoing collaborative effort, which is our immediate health care focus, remains largely in a late planning stage as it is interrelated with more slowly moving collaborations on data and applications which are of paramount importance to these districts and their health care facilities. However PNWGP expects that a number of community hospitals will be interconnected in a series of stages over the next few years as the required resources become available (and as the BTOP builds progress). Here the ability to participate in a national U.S.-UCAN effort will be a significant motivator for this already well pre-positioned CAI partner group to move forward more rapidly. [Note in Washington 'Public Health offices are part of state, local and county government and our efforts to reach them are part of our government initiatives].

PUBLIC MEDIA & PERFORMING ARTS - The Spokane Symphony is a direct participant in PNWGP and active on the PNWGP advisory board; and a number of other arts institutions are attached via governmental and university/college connectivity and participation in PNWGP. We were among the 1st R&E networking groups to bring broadcast radio to the internet via our ground-breaking work with KEXP-KM (www.kexp.org) (which continues) and which has helped us establish and sustain very strong relationships in the northwest music publishing and performing communities. We also have been the networking engine for the national Research Channel collaboration (includes Internet2 support) which brought a wide range of research project based video materials to the nation via not just the internet but various mechanisms of broadcast which reached over 30 million households, and in the process of helping with that established working relationships with crucial players and forces in the CATV, Satellite and content production and delivery industries that will be helpful in the next generation of content servering, and distribution for CAIs. Here with KEXP and Research Channel and elsewhere, we have a strong record of collaboration at local, regional, national, and international levels based on our pioneering work in HD (including uncompressed) HD and Audio over the internet and our continued role in collaboration with innovators and performance programs in this arena. PNWGP is eager for the opportunities we believe will come via US-UCAN collaborations to leverage these strong ties and competencies together with U.S. UCAN forces to better engender Washington's arts communities' access to and participation the advanced applications and regional and national scale arts community collaborations that can empower these institutions and their supporters. However, while we do have strengths and important relationships here in some of these communities, as in the case of museums we are looking to the US-UCAN pilot groups for ideas and motivators to engender more energy and engagement from and participation by other public media and performing arts communities in Washington as well as Hawaii, Montana and Alaska.

COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGES - For well over a decade PNWGP has provided connectivity and other services to all of the community and technical colleges, and nearly all of their branch campuses, across the State of Washington with 76 direct connections. This community sustains strong programmatic participation in PNWGP and is eager to upgrade to pervasive broadband tele-presence and is establishing a system-wide community college shared ERP infrastructure that will require more advanced networking and which may result in active participation in the middleware efforts and application that Internet2 has incubated (and in which the University of Washington and PNWGP have played founding and continuing major development roles). Also the leadership of these community colleges typically has strong, interwoven relationships with, and influence on, the other CAI sectors in their geographies, and we have always been able to achieve substantial leverage by working through them with other neighboring institutions.

UNIVERSITIES - All research universities in Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho and Montana are connected to PNWGP, and all except for the University of Montana, are (and have been for over a decade) active participants in PNWGP. Similarly all of the public colleges & universities and branches – totaling 43 - in Washington, and 9 of the ‘independent’ colleges in the state are connected to and are participants in PNWGP. Similarly we include 11 tribal Colleges and other post-secondary education sites We have long been able to employ these long standing and strong relationships to reach and work collaboratively with the many communities and sectors those institutions touch, and our university and college relationships remain among the most powerful tools we have as a regional and Internet2 connector for identifying and enlisting other CAI forces and communities. While we have very few additional ‘independent’ colleges remaining in WA this existing higher education community is one of our key assets in reaching the other CAIs across the state and region.

CONTRIBUTING TO U.S. UCAN REPOSITORY ON ADVANCED APPLICATIONS, PROCESSING & REPORTING PNWGP is committed to actively contributing to the community repository.

MECHANISMS FOR IDENTIFYING & ENGAGING ELIGIBLE CAIs & RELATED ADVANCED APPLICATIONS - As noted above PNWGP already has not only identified potential CAI participants but has established the relationships in each of the above sectors (other than museums and some arts organizations), identified and has already formally engaged the statewide leadership forces in each of those sectors to enable us to make quick progress in generating their growing participation and relevant programmatic activities.

VALUE OF U.S. UCAN TO WASHINGTON (AND OTHER PNWGP MEMBER STATES) - The prospect of participating in U.S. UCAN and with peer CAI sectors elsewhere across the region and country will inherently serve as a strong motivator to our well repositioned CAI communities and will provide extra impetus for them to move forward quickly. At the same time we feel we have much to learn from other regionals, Internet2 and others in the U.S UCAN area regarding working with the museum and arts communities, and in finding ways to both: get greater participation by CAIs in advanced applications, content and collaboration capability efforts, and harness/collect their energies into the critical mass collaborations we need to evolve the next generation of applications, content, and collaboration capabilities each of the CAI community’s needs. We see U.S. UCAN and the pilot program as a crucial engine for convening, leveraging and focusing the forces that will seize on and generate the ideas and collaborations that will drive this all forward. Given PNWGP’s previous work and present good fortune in having strong ongoing efforts in nearly all of the CAI categories including the local partnerships and relationships needed to quickly develop/adopt programs and pursue connectivity, we feel that we are well positioned to use the ‘roll out’ of U.S. UCAN as a timely vehicle for triggering quick success. At the same time our long history of successful collaboration with our peers and Internet2 has taught us that together we can do much more, much better than we can alone.

METRICS FOR TRACKING CAI PARTICIPATION & VALUE TO BE ADDED BY U.S. UCAN - We routinely track utilization, problems and performance at ‘sector’ as well as individual institution level. And we have over 2 decades of track record in tracking (and acting upon) rates of participation and use by sector and we expect to continue to do that with the new range of CAI ‘sectors’. Here having US UCAN to work with to establish and common metrics will enable us to adopt standards and conventions which others and we can use to measure, compare and evaluate progress.

PNWGP AS PRIMARY ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON STATE & FACILITATING/ENABLING ORGANIZATION FOR OTHER PNWGP MEMBER STATES (e.g. HI, AS, MT) - As not just an organization which has for over 2 decades actively sought out and included the broadest range of participants in our regional and national networking endeavors, but as the organization that has already reached out to and established the requisite relationships and projects with the very CAIs that US-UCAN has identified for its goals, we feel PNWGP is uniquely and very strongly qualified to be the primary facilitating organization in at least Washington state. We also feel we can play an important role in telescoping our participation to engagement of CAI’s in our other member states including Alaska, Hawaii and Montana via our long term University and other partners in those states.

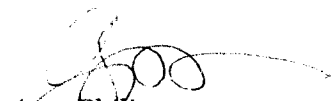
We at PNWGP, including our extended existing community of U.S. UCAN’s targeted CAI participants, aspirants and partners are very eager to participate in the *U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program* both to help enable us to further accelerate our substantial existing and already planned efforts in this important arena, and also to help U.S. UCAN achieve quick positive results via our, and our colleagues regional network’s/Internet2 Connectors participation – an effort whose ‘network

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effects' will benefit all. We also are eager to learn from and achieve the synergies that we know from past experience we can get by working with Internet2 and our peer regionals. It is only via such a collaborative process and associated parallel activities that we will be able to best shape a program that will be successful for us and also in and across the numerous diverse regional, geographical, political, cultural, financial and technical contexts that comprise our collective national scale challenges and opportunities. We believe PNWGP has established an exceptionally strong resume of such innovative, constructive collaborations with Internet2 and our peer RONS, as well as our member institutions/communities. That record ranges from being a co-founder of Internet2, on through our central role in advocating and then helping create the SEGP category in the 1st place (and establishing one of the 1st SEGPs), helping co-create the Quilt, actively incorporating k12, government, community colleges, hospitals, media/arts and private sector entities into our 'regional' over a decade ago; through our helping pioneer the model of lit-fiber based infrastructure for R&E, to being early co-creators and adopters of key Internet2 sponsored middleware capabilities and efforts such as InCommon, helping develop and implement the vLan based research network provisioning approach that is now the primary vehicle for providing dedicated network capabilities to researchers and research projects, and along with CENIC developing (and doing the initial regional and national implementation of) the TransitRail/CPS model.

Our Board and advisory board, along with our partner coordinating bodies in the JusticeNet, HealthNet, and LibraryNet initiatives (which PNWGP helped catalyze), as well as the Washington K20 Network (which we helped create over a decade ago), and in the Washington State's Department of Information Services are all eager for the opportunity to be able to move forward in our CAI oriented efforts in a partnership as participants in the U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program to better and more quickly serve a large number of additional CAI's sites and communities and work with them to facilitate adoption and evolution of the current, and creation of and broad participation in the next generation of advanced network-based services, applications and content. If there are any questions or other information we can provide please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Amy Philipson
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Gigapop

cc: PNWGP Board of Directors