



## **WiscNet's Participation in U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program**

It is with great enthusiasm that WiscNet would like to be considered for participation in the U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program. As a leader in the research and education networking community, WiscNet brings over 20 years worth of network building experience to U.S. UCAN. Interestingly, the most important networks we find ourselves building are those made up of people.

WiscNet's mission coincides well with the underlying tenets of the U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program.

*Our mission is to fortify research, education and public service with advanced communication technologies. It is done in partnership. It is accomplished by strengthening the association, the members, and the communities to which we belong. It is championing the Wisconsin Idea by advancing high-performance networks and services that extend member resources throughout the state and beyond. We connect the world to Wisconsin and Wisconsin to the world!*

Our commitment to network advancement and innovation for our Community Anchor Institutions and beyond offers the right match for the planned activities of the U.S. UCAN national program.

As a result of our commitment to advanced networking, WiscNet has been watching U.S. UCAN closely. In late 2010, as WiscNet considered elements of its upcoming strategic plan, "Make U.S. UCAN a Success for Wisconsin" emerged as a high level strategic priority, despite U.S. UCAN still being in its infancy.

*Funded in 2010 by the Federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, the United State Unified Community Anchor Network (U.S. UCAN) will become a nationwide advanced network infrastructure that, together with state and regional partners (including WiscNet), will enable the connection of America's community anchor institutions to support advanced applications not possible with today's typical Internet service. U.S. UCAN fills a critical gap linking community anchor institutions together into a national, open network with next-generation capabilities, operated with end-to-end transparency and the highest levels of performance uniquely suited to the needs of their communities.*

*As U.S. UCAN's partner, and because it constitutes a national endorsement of WiscNet's model for providing advanced network services to diverse anchor institutions, we will serve our members' strategic interests through influencing the policies and leveraging the resources that U.S. UCAN will deploy in Wisconsin and in our multi-state service region.*

WiscNet is ready to work with U.S. UCAN to connect Wisconsin's Community Anchor Institutions with the work emerging at the national level. WiscNet's 473 member organizations include the vast majority of libraries, K12 schools, government agencies,



healthcare organizations, community colleges, and universities throughout Wisconsin. We feel strongly that it is our role and within our mission to help connect our communities to national initiatives and to share our knowledge and resources at a national level

As stated in our strategic plan, WiscNet gains significant value from U.S. UCAN in that the mission of U.S. UCAN constitutes a national endorsement of WiscNet's model for providing advanced network services to communities within our state. Along with our partners at the University of Wisconsin – Extension, WiscNet is currently working with five “demonstration communities” throughout Wisconsin in building and growing “Community Area Networks” through the Federal Broadband Stimulus BTOP program. WiscNet is also working closely with dozens of additional communities to begin the process of interconnecting Community Anchor Institutions based on our 20+ years of experience in networking. In short, we have much to share with those at the national level when it comes to our common missions.

Finally, WiscNet is confident that we bring the right people with the right expertise to the table in order to make U.S. UCAN successful. We are equally adept in building both the network and the community around the network to make this work for everybody. Our strategic plan is evidence that we are already working to connect Community Anchor Institutions in new and innovative ways and we highly encourage U.S. UCAN to take a look at how we are doing this in Wisconsin to help move everybody, including WiscNet, forward.

<http://www.wiscnet.net/images/stories/stratplan2016.pdf>

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