



OFFICE OF
Information Technology

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March 26, 2010

Brian Holst, Executive Director
Juneau Economic Development Council
Ste A, 612 West Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-173

Re: *JuneauBroadband Initiative*

Mr. Holst,

The University of Alaska, Office of Information Technology, is pleased to support the Juneau Economic Development Corporation in its efforts to partner with Google in planning, building and testing high-speed broadband as part of the Juneau Broadband Initiative.

The University of Alaska has a long-standing commitment to education, research and community outreach. Advancing technologies in the Juneau Borough would empower that community to leverage those resources for education, resource acquisition and economic development.

The University of Alaska currently maintains a wide area network that connects our campuses across the entire state from Ketchikan to Barrow as well as a high speed, OC-12, connection to the Lower-48. Recently, GCI, Inc. of Alaska, gifted the University bandwidth up to an OC-192 and has partnered with the University in its "Cable on the Tundra" Project. This National Science Foundation funded project will test the effects on Fiber Optic cable laid across the tundra and the feasibility of laying fiber to remote communities.

The University of Alaska also maintains a state-of-the-art, 24-7, data center which houses key infrastructure for the University and the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center.

Even with the advanced technology implemented and maintained by the University, affordable broadband is out of reach of residents in a vast majority of our State. Expanding broadband capacity to the home in our Alaska communities will be a significant step in putting Alaskans on par with services currently available in the Lower-48.

We look forward to working with Juneau Borough and the Juneau Economic Development Corporation in the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Karl Kowalski, Executive Director User Services
University of Alaska
Statewide Office of Information Technology