



# 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Making History

**PennREN construction complete.** In February 2010, KINBER was awarded a \$99.6 million grant by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to design, build and manage a 1,600-mile broadband network that would stretch across the Commonwealth connecting 63 community anchor institutions and reach unserved or underserved counties. Three years later, the construction of the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network (PennREN) was completed. PennREN provides advanced data networking to non-profit organizations across 50 counties of Pennsylvania. It enables value-added services like realistic high-definition video, real-time videoconferencing, and data sharing for education, research, healthcare, workforce development, government and economic development. The collaborative environment also provides opportunities for member institutions to share best practices, content and programs.

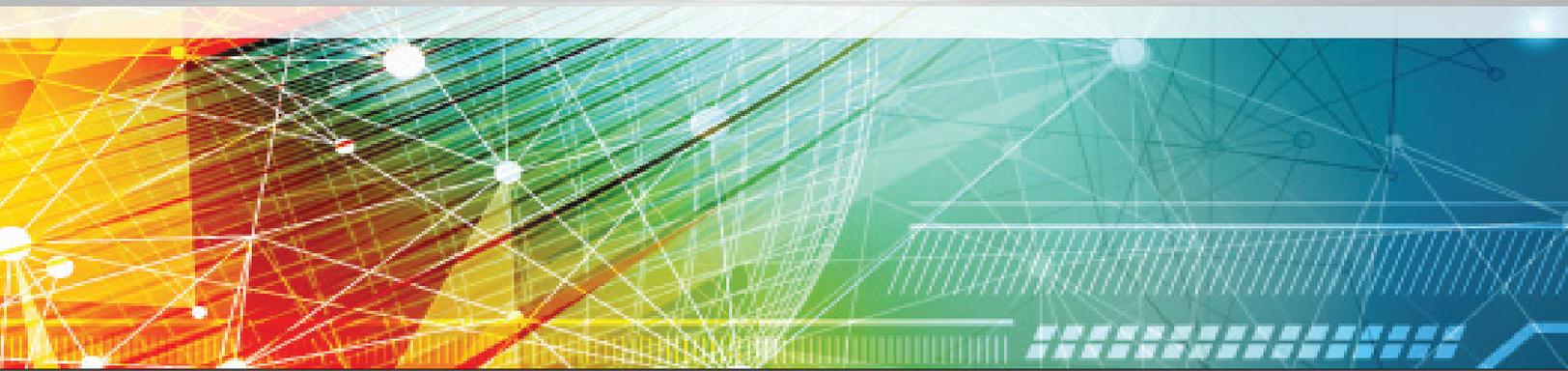
**Member-to-Member Services Online.** In January, KINBER created an online services listing that serves as a clearinghouse for KINBER members who are in a position to offer services from their institutions to other KINBER participants. This provides members the ability to learn from peers and leverage services from other participating organizations. The listing, at KINBER.org under the Services tab, provides categories of services that were identified by members including content collaboration tools and enterprise resource planning to offsite data storage and disaster recovery services, organizations have an opportunity to connect with other entities that can help them achieve goals and meet the needs of their clients.

**2013 Member Meeting, MAKING THE CONNECTION: Creating Sustainable Broadband Solutions.** Held June 26 - 27, 2013 at the University of Pittsburgh, the event served as a forum for collaboration and as a celebration of the completion of PennREN. Featured speakers included Dr. Tony Wilhelm, director of the Technology Opportunities Program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U. S. Department of Commerce; Shelton Waggener, senior vice president of Internet2 responsible for the NET+ portfolio of services; JoeFreddoso, president and CEO of MCNC; and Craig Settles, broadband business strategist, marketing expert, author and internationally renowned speaker on using broadband technologies to improve government and stakeholders' operating efficiency and local economic development.

**Two associate members added.** The University of Scranton and Temple University were approved to join the board as associate members. With the addition, the KINBER board is at maximum capacity with 17 seats.

More





**Public Media serves as trailblazer; First time a last-mile provider linked organizations not directly connected to PennREN.** In June, KINBER announced that Velocity Network connected the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network to the WQLN Public Media studios in Erie and successfully transmitted data to WPSU in State College. The connection is a milestone for KINBER and represents the first time a last-mile provider linked organizations that are not connected directly to the PennREN network. The connectivity is reaping benefits while the connection is providing each organization with a host of new opportunities that were not possible.

**KINBER featured on NTIA's blog in July.** Anthony Wilhelm, Associate Administrator of NTIA's Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, wrote about his impressions of KINBER and PennREN from his experience at KINBER's Member Meeting. Read the post at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/blogs>.

**First PA Forward Information Literacy Summit.** In August, KINBER joined more than 100 participants who attended the daylong meeting, where public, school and academic librarians from across Pennsylvania came together to strategize on how to maximize students' ability to find, evaluate and use information. Given the high demand for technology, libraries are a natural fit with KINBER, who can deploy wireless access points, offer high speed access, and provide the infrastructure to: support enhanced POWER Library, which provides home access to great online resources such as academic libraries and repositories of complex research databases, provide eCourses and classes to build job readiness skills and enable video classes and tutorials.

**Service connections.** In 2013, KINBER's Operations Team turned up PennREN service connections at 24 locations across Pennsylvania.

**New board members.** In September, Stacey Aldrich, Tim O'Rourke and Jerome P. DeSanto, Ed.D., were recently appointed to KINBER by their respective organizations. Aldrich, who was appointed this year to serve as Pennsylvania's deputy secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Pennsylvania Department of Education, most recently served as the state librarian in California. O'Rourke serves as vice president for computer and financial services and CIO for Temple University, and DeSanto serves as the vice president for planning and CIO for the University of Scranton.

**Additional node construction.** KINBER and its construction partner, Sunesys, added seven additional nodes to expand the original PennREN footprint's reach into more rural areas of Pennsylvania. The completion date is early 2014.