



Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) becomes KINBER's First Customer

STATE COLLEGE (Oct. 8, 2012) -- Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) and the Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER), the non-profit membership organization that is building a broadband network across Pennsylvania, announced today CCBC has become KINBER's first customer, selecting KINBER to provide commodity Internet services for its students, faculty and administrators.

"At CCBC, our goal is to ensure that our students have the connectivity necessary to support their studies," said Dr. Joe D. Forrester, president. "Our affiliation with KINBER will help us achieve that goal and assist us in expanding the use of technology to support learning."

Walter Lukhaup, CCBC vice president of information technology, added, "Our experience with KINBER has been very positive. As the second smallest community college in the state, CCBC often seeks to find ways to collaborate, and working with KINBER provides opportunities for cooperation. After the initial start-up investment, the KINBER service will lead to a reduction in costs and new possibilities to harness technology."

"Though commodity internet is the first service we are purchasing, KINBER's PennREN, a high-speed broadband network, enables many other possibilities, including a library management system, video conferencing, and synchronous online courses," he said.

Bruce M. Taggart, Ph.D., chair of the KINBER Board of Directors and vice provost for library and technology services at Lehigh University, said, "We are thrilled that CCBC has chosen to work with KINBER and shares our vision for the future of high speed networking in Pennsylvania."

Sharing Taggart's enthusiasm, Jeff Reel, KINBER CEO and executive director, said, "We can help CCBC achieve maximum performance so the college can better meet its mission. By offering better routes to research and education networks and other members on PennREN, and by providing KINBER's pool of experience, CCBC and other organizations can benefit from best practices in the field," Reel said.

Reel mentioned that CCBC, as the first customer, was able to take advantage of early adopter discounts, which will be extended to any qualified KINBER member who signs a service agreement prior to February 28, 2013. He also mentioned that KINBER is offering a variety of services to its members during PennREN's inaugural year, including dark fiber services, metro ethernet service and optical transport services across PennREN.

Diane Bosak, executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, was pleased to learn that CCBC was KINBER's first customer.

"The partnership between KINBER and CCBC will allow the college, its students, faculty and administrators to find new and better ways to collaborate and expand upon the excellent services the college already provides. I am pleased that a Pennsylvania community college is taking advantage of KINBER's services and look forward to seeing what opportunities this partnership presents."

About CCBC

The Community College of Beaver County is the alma mater to over 45,000 individuals. Located in Monaca, Pennsylvania, just 40 miles west of downtown Pittsburgh, the campus is nestled in the heart of Beaver County. With enrollment higher than ever in the 40+ year history of the college, residents are realizing that the best value and highest quality in higher education is at CCBC. CCBC is convenient and affordable plus offers credit and non-credit programs, degree and certificate opportunities, transfer programs, dual-enrollment to high school students, and skill training that leads to career readiness or workforce development. With state-of-the-art technology in every classroom and faculty to match, CCBC is the road to your future.

The college offers Casino Dealer training, GIS and Safeland certification programs, and computer training courses at its Washington County Center located at Southpointe in Cannonsburg, PA, plus an associate degree in Culinary Arts at the Western Area Career and Technical Center.

The Aviation Sciences Center is located in Beaver Falls, PA, 20 minutes from the campus. There, CCBC offers the number one Air Traffic Control program in the nation. The Professional Pilot program is supported by three flight providers.

About KINBER

KINBER is a nonprofit membership organization that provides broadband connectivity, fosters collaboration, and promotes the innovative use of digital technologies among learning, health, media and other anchor institutions that improve the quality of life for communities in Pennsylvania through research, education and public service. Established in 2010 through a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, KINBER is committed to delivering equitable, reliable and affordable access, space for collaboration, and digital tools for research and education to inspire tomorrow's scientific discoveries, enable the exchange of ideas and culture among diverse populations, educate the next generation of citizens and revitalize our economy.

KINBER's first project, PennREN, the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network, will deliver a statewide platform for connecting its members through facilities based fiber-optic networking. Members can utilize PennREN's services for advancing their initiatives while KINBER provider partners can offer open access for expanding broadband access across the commonwealth. PennREN will initially light over 1,600 miles of fiber on a middle-mile network that will connect over 70 locations. For more information on PennREN and KINBER, visit KINBER.org.