HOW LIBRARIES BENEFIT FROM KINBER

According to a 2011-2012 American Library Association study that tracks the expanding technology landscape of U.S. public libraries, library technology resources continue to be in great demand:

More than half of libraries (58.2 percent) report increased use of electronic resources.

More than one-third of libraries (36.3 percent) report increased use of training services.

Over 60 percent of libraries report increased use of public access workstations.

Libraries’ technology resources are in demand. KINBER can help.

WHAT IS KINBER?
The Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER) is a non-profit membership organization comprised of education, healthcare, economic development, libraries, public media and other non-profit organizations devoted to fostering collaboration through technology.

KINBER can support and provide the infrastructure to:
• Support enhanced POWER Library
• Provide eCourses and classes to build job readiness skills
• Enable video classes and tutorials

KINBER can assist the library’s role in fostering Information Literacy by:
• Deploying wireless access points
• Linking to academic libraries and repositories of complex research databases
• Offering high speed access

KINBER is a nonprofit membership organization that provides broadband connectivity, fosters collaboration, and promotes the innovative use of digital technologies among education, healthcare, library, state and local government and other anchor institutions that improve the quality of life for communities in Pennsylvania through research, education, and public service.

In an historic collaborative effort of representatives from every sector of higher education, healthcare, library, economic development, and other partners, KINBER applied to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in 2009 for a grant to design and manage a 1,600-mile broadband “superhighway” that would stretch across the Commonwealth.

In February 2010, KINBER was awarded a $99.6 million grant, which was matched by over $29 million in cash and in-kind contribution from KINBER, contractors and members to build PennREN, the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network. Construction completed in Feb. 2013 and the network is operational. Most of the access points are located in counties considered to be unserved or underserved based on their limited access to affordable broadband services.

Today KINBER connects over 85 organizations in 57 counties across the Commonwealth.

PennREN provides advanced data networking to organizations across 57 counties of Pennsylvania. PennREN connectivity enables value-added services like realistic high-definition video, real-time videoconferencing, and data sharing for education, research, healthcare, workforce development, libraries, government and economic development. The collaborative environment also provides opportunities for institutions to share best practices, content, and programs.

To learn more…
Contact Ken Barber, Director of Business Development, KINBER kbarber@kinber.org, 610-217-2018.