



### June Construction Installation Progress

- Construction for fiber interconnections with UC2B project is underway and nearing completion.
- Fiber construction completed from Springfield to Quincy and Quincy to Macomb
- Network Testing and turn-up for backbone segments and CAs from Collinsville to Charleston and Charleston to Olney.

Click here to view the video...

Lighting Illinois Building for our Future!

## NEW START 2013



**July 1<sup>st</sup>** represents a significant milestone for the Illinois Century Network, for our customers and for Illinois. Over the past three years, as we worked to migrate the ICN to a state owned fiber optic network, we held July 1, 2013 as the target date to go live with our new rates structure, state allocation model, and lighting of the fiber. **And that date has arrived!**

Although some construction and network configuration work will continue over the next couple months in keeping with the grant timeline, beginning Monday July 1<sup>st</sup>, all our customers may begin taking advantage of greatly reduced bandwidth pricing. Our primary constituents will begin to realize higher bandwidth levels available through the state allocation in support of schools, libraries and museums.

Just as important however, is that the ICN and other grant partners, through funds provided by the Federal Government's Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant, Illinois Jobs Now, along with in-kind contributions, enter into the final stages of the building of a state wide fiber infrastructure which will serve all of Illinois with expanded broadband access now and into the future.

Our Regional Technology Office (RTC) staff is now in the process of updating customer connections and rate limits, adjusting billing records, and processing E-Rate bandwidth purchase service orders. If you have any questions or would like to make changes to any of your ICN services, please contact your RTC office. We thank you for selecting the ICN!

RTC offices can be found at this link: [www.illinois.net/rtc/default.htm](http://www.illinois.net/rtc/default.htm).

### Get Connected

To continue to build on the progress made so far, the ICN has initiated a project we are calling **Connecting Illinois – A Roadmap for K12 Schools**. The objective is to develop a roadmap for connecting all Illinois anchor institutions to broadband with the initial focus on K12 schools. A steering committee has been formed with specific objectives and timelines to identify the current broadband environment in underserved areas, and then to implement a strategy for bringing fiber based connectivity to every Illinois school. The committee will publish their final report at the end of this year. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

### ConnectED

is an initiative by the White House to address the need for expanding broadband service to every school in the country ensuring that every student and teacher has the access, tools and training required to fully participate in today's technology driven learning environment. The goals include: connecting 99% of all schools with high speed broadband service within five years, providing teachers with the training and support they need, and encouraging the private sector to be engaged in and focus on innovation, software development and educational devices which will enhance the diverse teaching and learning models being deployed today.

ConnectED has a target of a minimum of 100Mbps for every school with a goal of 1Gbps. Focus is to build on the expertise of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and their accomplishments in expanding broadband access, and in leveraging the E-Rate program. More information on ConnectED can be found at these links:

[www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/06/06/what-connected](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/06/06/what-connected)

[www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/connected\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/connected_fact_sheet.pdf)