

Evaluation Committee
21st Century Fund
c/o Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
712 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

September 30, 2001

Dear Committee Members:

Buffalo Independent Secondary Schools Network (BISSNET) is the lead agency among a group of over 27 organizations comprising the Western New York Partnership for Regional Internetworking (WNYPRI). The consortium is requesting **\$150,000** from the 21st Century Fund to develop the **21st Century Regional Internetworking Center**.

Housed at the University of Buffalo, the Center will provide the partners with simultaneous access to state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment and infrastructure needed to bring high-quality, live video interaction to education, healthcare and government centers. The pooling of funds and resources by partners will provide equipment more robust than each member could afford individually and promotes the spirit of regionalism.

BISSNET, a 501(c)(3) organization, is one of four organizations on the WNYPRI Steering Committee. BISSNET Project Director, Carol Kostyniak, is also the WNYPRI Chairwoman and has worked closely over the past eight months with members of WNYPRI to develop this proposal. The Steering Committee also consists of the University of Buffalo, Erie County Medical Center and Daemen College.

The **21st Century Regional Internetworking Center** embodies the spirit of the 21st Century Fund. This project will catalyze other organizations to think outside of the box and to formulate regional solutions to individual obstacles. Benefactors of the Center are also intergenerational, and as such, reflect members of the 21st Century Fund. As a demonstration of its commitment to the project, BISSNET has allocated **\$25,000 as a cash match** toward the development of the Center.

This proposal has my unqualified endorsement. We hope that you will strongly consider this proposal, which will impact every resident in Western New York. If you require additional information, please contact me at 875-8212. In advance, thank you for your consideration of this very worthwhile proposal.

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Bryan, Jr.
President, BISSNET Board of Directors
Headmaster, Nichols School