

Western New York High Performance Networked Video Initiative

September 29, 2001

TO: Carol Kostyniak, WNYPRI Chairperson

SUBJECT: Letter of Intent to Support The WNYPRI

As you know, I direct a public service effort to support early adopters of emerging high performance networked video technologies (H.323 videoconferencing and MPEG I-II streaming video) in education, healthcare and government service. These technologies promise ubiquitous medical/business quality visual and visceral connectivity that will enable dramatic public service improvements at reduced costs to our region and, most importantly, to our under-served and remote communities.

The University at Buffalo directly supports this effort, the Western New York High Performance Networked Video Initiative (WNY-HPNVI), with approximately \$150,000 per year in baseline budget, staff, and facilities. We maintain and operate a constantly evolving trial and developmental public infrastructure collection, our Sandbox, valued at over \$75,000. UB's contributions are supplemented by contributions from a growing list of participating institutions and business partners including the Erie County Medical Center, KALEIDA Healthcare Hospital Group, Cisco Corporation, Veraview, and ViewCommunications. We now count over 85 supporting members spanning more than 20 regional institutions, government offices and businesses. Our single-minded mission is to provide technical support and guidance to early adopters of emerging high performance networked video technology.

The WNY-HPNVI provides third-tier technical support and guidance, assistance with network and deployment planning, access to and training on the use of diagnostic tools, access to expensive and complex program trial and developmental infrastructure resources (Gateways, Gatekeepers, MCU's, development systems), reproducible and successful system design models, periodic demonstrations and evaluations of emerging high performance networked video technology in education, telemedicine and government service contexts and a regional forum for information exchange and practical solution development among early adopters. These services are provided at no charge to regional education, healthcare, government and community organizations.

Please accept this as a formal commitment of developmental support to the WNYPRI. As long as support continues for the WNT-HPNVI, the WNYPRI can count on a minimum of 30% of our allocable staff and facility resources for trial and developmental activities. In fact, our objectives are the same and I expect the WNYPRI to accrue benefit from virtually all of our various efforts. The WNY-HPNVI will continue to try to illuminate the potholes in all of our roads ahead and to support and encourage trials and forums wherein the best regional thinking can develop practical solutions. As the evidence at our Web site at <http://wny-hpnvi.buffalo.edu/wny-hpnvi> suggests, our collective track record has been excellent to date.

Our annual support for the Megaconference event and our in-progress centerpiece global Extended Medical Grand Rounds trial already include members of your constituency. I look forward to developing other trials and demonstrations with you, particularly in the K-12 and government service sectors.

Sincerely,

James O'Connor Whitlock
Associate Director of Computing Services
Director, WNY High Performance Networked Video Initiative
University at Buffalo