

8/18/2010

Contact: Chris Mackey

Raleigh

(919) 733-5612

## **Gov. Perdue Announces \$115 Million in Federal Recovery Funds to Expand Broadband Access in North Carolina**

### ***Funding follows Perdue's advocacy for North Carolina's broadband applications***

Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that North Carolina has received \$115 million in five federal recovery grants to extend broadband connectivity in North Carolina. These funds will create jobs and help spur economic development through expanded access to high-speed Internet in underserved areas. Through two rounds of recovery funding, North Carolina has received over \$255 million for broadband.

"Increasing broadband access will create new jobs up front and provide a boost for local economies to create even more jobs and a better quality of life in the near future," said Gov. Perdue. "These improvements are especially important in rural and underserved areas of North Carolina."

The grants are part of the second round of Recovery Act funding for broadband projects from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. North Carolina has already received over \$140 million in recovery broadband grants. Gov. Perdue joined North Carolina's congressional delegation in personally advocating for North Carolina's grant applications in Washington, D.C., during the past year.

More information about the recently announced North Carolina broadband grants:

#### **MCNC – \$75,757,289**

This approximately \$75.8 million award will allow MCNC to offer affordable middle-mile broadband service in 69 of the most economically disadvantaged rural counties along the northern and southern borders of North Carolina. The project plans to directly connect 170 community institutions to broadband. As many as 5.1 million stand to benefit as do 160,000 businesses.

With the strong support of Gov. Perdue and other state and local leaders, the Golden LEAF Foundation provided a \$24 million grant in April to provide the necessary match for this federal award.