

COLLEGE/UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CUPP)



Michael W. Burns

**Senior Advisor to the Regional Administrator/ Director of
CUPP Program**

Environmental Protection Agency (Region 4)

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HOW IT WORKS – COLLEGE/UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- Communities are identified for support by federal agencies; colleges and universities; non profit organizations; or self identified, based on criteria poor and/or underserved).
- Issues are identified by the CUPP Program in partnership with the community.
- Local university is identified that can assist the community via CUPP.
- Universities agree to which issues they will provide voluntary assistance, and assign the students to assist in providing the technical assistance
- Each participating school arraigns for academic credits to be earned by these students for their efforts
- The federal government (project manager) will coordinate technical assistance to the schools to assist them in helping communities as needed.

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PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Creative, collaborative effort between poor and underserved communities, and local colleges and universities to provide consistent technical support at no cost to the communities; schools participate on a voluntary basis.
- Students gain valuable experiential learning opportunity that helps those who need help the most. In addition, it serves as a resume builder, and enhances obtaining job opportunities upon graduation.
- Underserved communities benefit from the investment of innovative technical assistance and gain a consistent source of technical assistance and planning.
- The presence of college students in poor communities serves as an inspirational model for children in those communities.
- Federal agencies gain the opportunity to expand the support provided to poor and underserved communities with no need for additional staff.

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CURRENT STATUS

- 73 colleges onboard supporting 55 communities in 20 states.
- Program has completed or is scheduled to complete over 150 projects impacting the lives of over 2,702,412 people
- Value of work done in the communities from 2013 to 2018 is over \$33,360,000 with; Return On Investment (ROI) of over 10 to 1
- Four federal agencies onboard to support program nationwide (EPA, DOI, USDA, and DOE (Energy); Department of Education considering similar agreement
- Two non-governmental partnerships that have supported the program projects at no cost; Community Engineering Corps, and the American Geophysics Union

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- **BROADBAND INITIATIVE**

Background & Overview

- The National Telecommunications Information Agency's (NTIA) broadband programs and policymaking focus on expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America to ensure that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth for all Americans. Under the NTIA's BroadbandUSA Initiative, NTIA provides direct and indirect technical assistance and resources to rural communities to assist them in the planning, funding and implementation of broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion projects. BroadbandUSA provides an educational platform so that communities will know what they need, and learn ways to achieve their goals. Unfortunately, BroadbandUSA does not sufficient resources to reach or assist every poor and/or rural community across the country. To maximize the impact and utilization of BroadbandUSA resources, a collaboration with CUPP program can be most beneficial. Was considered to be a great idea.

"Train the Trainer" Concept

- NTIA can use its BroadbandUSA technical assistance staff to provide "train the trainer" education for CUPP college professors and students. In turn, students and professors can use this training to develop broadband community plans for their local communities. Professors can provide the continuity to the effort, and each school can develop the plans for their local communities utilizing specific academic departments and resources. This will allow the number of communities helped to expand dramatically, with no significant requirement for an increase in the allocation of NTIA/BroadbandUSA staff or resources.

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Pilot Program

- Under this proposal, NTIA and EPA formed a collaborative partnership between BroadbandUSA and EPA's College Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) to establish a "Train the Trainer" pilot program where BroadbandUSA trained academic staff/students on the broadband planning and in turn, the staff and students will provide direct educational training to community residents, stakeholders and organizations.
- Five academic areas (IT, Business, Education, Economic Development, Health) received the training from BroadbandUSA on how to develop broadband plans. They subsequently working with local communities to develop and implement the plans. If this "train the trainer" concept and pilot program work, it could serve as a model and be replicated in other rural areas across the country.
- The plans are expected to be completed in December 2019.

Proposed Benefits

- The proposed benefits of the pilot program would be as follows:
- (1) Provide very unique multi-discipline experiential learning for university and college students and use the federally-funded work-study program to provide stipends;
- (2) Establish an effective interagency partnership between NTIA, EPA and the colleges to address broadband challenges of rural communities;
- (3) Exponentially expand BroadbandUSA's educational outreach, specifically targeting rural, underserved/unserved, poor and economically distressed/disadvantaged communities; and
- (4) Serve as a model for the effective and efficient use and execution of USDA Rural Development funds used to provide access to broadband in rural America.

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Students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College working to address bias issues in rural communities.



Wayne Johnson, Water and Sewage Manager for the City of Darien (*left*) and John Rayfield, student from Georgia Southern (*right*), holding one of a series of solar stills used to reduce water in the sewage sludge. Project used as a practicum project for John's M.S. in Sustainability.

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Students from Tuskegee University
working to get public input for bus
stops for the alternate transportation
project



Students from Florida International
University working on food garden in
Medley, FL

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- Students working with the IT Director at East Point, GA on cybersecurity issues
- “GSU’s students have been instrumental in updating and rewriting the City’s IT policies and procedures to meet the changing landscape of cybersecurity,” said Farhad Islam, IT Director for the City of East Point. “They focused on people, processes, and technologies to address IT security issues relevant to protecting the City’s key infrastructures. They worked as a team to develop a security training framework and performed risk and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of existing systems and applications in order to identify vulnerabilities and make recommendations on fixes. They learned a great deal from this engagement and the City benefited immensely from their effort and service.”

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Georgia Tech students studying the Alabama River as part of a study on the erosion impact the river is having on the foundation of the Edmund Pettis Bridge.



Professor and student from Savannah State University working on design of multi-purpose municipal building for the city of Midway, GA. Building will house all city functions, and will include the use of solar panels and recycled materials to reduce cost to seventy percent of original cost.

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Pilot agricultural project being done by Tuskegee University in the city of Shorter, AL. Mayor Powell is driving the tractor, and the Dean of Tuskegee AG School is on her right. Pilot grew so many watermelons, once quota share was sold, city made thousands selling from roadside stands



UNC Wilmington teaching the citizens of Navassa, NC about how contamination affects the natural environment. School developed natural resource projects on behalf of the city to compete for 12 million dollars worth of potential funding via the Superfund settlement.



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- Students from Clemson University visiting the Alabama Black belt. They were part of a four school collaboration (University of South Alabama; Tuskegee University; and Drexel University) that developed new concepts and designs to address poor sewage issues in the Alabama Belt Black, an issue that has led to poor health issues for decades. The students best ideas will be used to develop a pilot project funded by USDA Rural Development. If the pilot works, the pilot will be used throughout the Black Belt of Alabama.

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Any Questions?

**Let us know your
thoughts, comments
and or concerns**

Email: Burns.Michael@epa.gov

Or

Call: 404-562-8228