



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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“UNLEASHING THE EDUCATIONAL POWER OF BROADBAND”

FCC TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON USING BROADBAND FOR LIFELONG LEARNING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

Washington D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission will host a Symposium “Unleashing the Educational Power of Broadband,” on Wednesday, October 6, 2004, at FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. The event is part of ongoing Commission efforts intended to spur the deployment of broadband services across America, including to schools and libraries.

"Broadband is an essential tool to prepare today's young people for tomorrow's workforce and to facilitate lifelong learning for students of all ages," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell. "This Symposium presents a unique opportunity to hear how broadband can promote learning from experts in the schools and libraries community."

To present this full day symposium, the FCC is partnering with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping museums and libraries serve their communities, and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the independent not-for-profit corporation that administers the Universal Service Fund.

“At IMLS we believe that learning is a community-wide and lifelong endeavor,” said IMLS Director Dr. Robert Martin. “Broadband offers new ways for museums and libraries - with their massive holdings, carefully curated exhibitions and experiences, trained and knowledgeable professionals, and educational programs to contribute to effective learning at home, at school and in the workplace.”

"Bringing broadband access to schools and libraries across the country has been at the heart of USAC's mission," said USAC CEO Lisa Zaina. "We are delighted to be a part of this important symposium to demonstrate how USAC can be an active partner in helping schools and libraries integrate this technology into the learning experience."

The symposium will explore ways to use broadband to facilitate learning in schools, libraries, and the home. Among the presenters will be participants in the Schools and Libraries Universal Service program, also called the “e-rate,” which was established as part of the

Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide affordable telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries, especially those in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Speakers will also include teachers and librarians with first-hand experience using digital resources and assessing their impact on learning.

The event will provide a collaborative resource for stakeholders on how to maximize the benefits of the e-rate. Panel sessions and demonstrations will focus on key questions such as:

- *How does broadband facilitate learning?*
- *What can broadband do for students and for life long learners?*
- *How does a school integrate technology into the learning environment and curriculum most effectively?*
- *How can e-rate funds be combined with funds from other sources to maximize broadband access and use in schools and libraries?*

Additional Details:

Audio/Video coverage of the meeting will be broadcast live over the Internet from the FCC's Audio/Video Events web page at www.fcc.gov/realaudio.

Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible; please allow at least 5 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

For more information about the E-rate, visit the FCC's webpage at: http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/usp_Schools.html

For more information about IMLS visit <http://www.imls.gov>.

For more information about USAC visit <http://www.universalservice.org>.

The Symposium agenda and list of speakers will be released closer to the event. Further inquiries can be e-mailed to: Edsymposium@fcc.gov.

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