

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

Project Title: Renovate/Replace Information Technology Distribution System

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Who we serve

Shippensburg University, a regional comprehensive institution, located in rural south-central Pennsylvania, offers 52 undergraduate programs, 8 pre-professional programs (including pre-veterinary and pre-medicine) and 7 affiliated programs whereby students can earn combined undergraduate and graduate degrees through accelerated programs.

Current enrollment exceeds 8,000 students, most of whom are first-generation college students from the rural parts of Pennsylvania. Shippensburg University also serves as a community anchor institution for the four surrounding municipalities—Shippensburg Borough, and Shippensburg, Southampton-Franklin County, and Southampton-Cumberland County townships, located in the larger service area of Cumberland and Franklin Counties. Enrollment is expected to grow to over 10,000, a 25 percent increase, by 2020. The challenge we face

In anticipation of future growth, the university recently updated its facilities master plan and is in the process of developing an academic master plan to meet the educational and job training needs of the growing population that we serve. As part of planning for the new/renovated facilities necessary to accommodate this growth, a study was conducted to review the telecommunications distribution system.

The study found that in general the distribution system is in relatively good shape. It has been maintained and upgraded as needed over the years. However, some manholes were found to have drainage problems, and many have relatively no conduit space capacity for future requirements. Paths to proposed new buildings do not exist.

The opportunity we have

This project will provide for much needed renovations/upgrades to the existing telecommunications infrastructure. It will correct existing deficiencies by replacing underground main distribution backbones that are at the end of their useful lives, by replacing leaky and deteriorating telecommunications manholes and duct banks, by replacing duct and cabling between demarcation points and remote hubs, and by other work needed to modernize and assure continuing reliability of this aging system, some parts of which have been in place since the late 60's and early 70's. This project will provide for the necessary telecommunications infrastructure to support state-of-the-art technology systems for campus-wide and sometimes statewide demands into the next quarter of the century.

Our leadership

Shippensburg University's physical plant, information technology, and finance and administration divisions have the qualified personnel, experience, and administrators to successfully carry out the project. Over the past 15 years, we have renovated or constructed our Franklin Science Center, Math and Computing Technologies building, Grove College of Business, College of Education and Human Services building and its Elementary Laboratory School (K-5), Rowland-Shearer Hall, the Luhrs Performing Arts Center, Dauphin Humanities Center, and Reisner Dining Hall.

Our academic and career education programs are nationally recognized and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the International Association for Management Education (AACSB), the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and the Counsel on Social Work Education.

Investment in Jobs

This is a \$3.3 million construction project, which will directly employ design and construction firms and many individuals at professional and prevailing wages. It will indirectly employ many more individuals in related fields. The impact will be multiplied further by the increased number of students participating in

and graduating from our degree and career education programs and by the economic impact of Shippensburg University on the community that it serves.