Hampton University, in a major partnership with the City of Hampton, VA., proposes to significantly expand 5 Public Computer Centers and implement 3 new Centers. Collectively, these facilities will increase and facilitate our ability to provide need-based education and training to low income, senior citizens, children from grades 4 - 12 and an unemployed and underemployed workforce. The HU Public Computer Center (HUPCC) will offer a wide variety of topic specific self-paced, web-based interactive tutorials. End-users may select and customize programs that will benefit them. Additionally, the HUPCC will expand distance learning for workforce education and training not only in the City of Hampton, but in Surry Co., VA as well. Hampton University will also implement two mobile classrooms that will further enhance its efforts to provide technology-based access and instruction. The mobile units can also be used by the City of Hampton's law enforcement entities for training and real-life emergency situations. The overarching goal of the proposed Public Computer Centers project will be to educate, spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity. The Project will address three BTOP core objectives: (1) to provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved and underserved areas of Hampton Roads: (2) to provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved and underserved areas of Hampton Roads; and (3) to stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth and job creation. For 141 years, HU has held true to its mission of providing excellent higher education, especially to minorities and disadvantaged individuals. Hence, Hampton is particularly sensitive to and capable of launching the proposed public computer center to accommodate access to broadband services. These proposed facilities will provide improved and accessible broadband access to consumers in both underserved and underserved areas to on-line courses and certificates in health care delivery, energy, green short term certificate and a certificate in homeland security. These offerings will better able the populations served to become gainfully employed. In addition, the training related to green and energy jobs may very well lead to the development of new job opportunities through the establishment of small business ventures by some of the targeted Project participant. All will be advertised through the University's website and the unemployment offices throughout Hampton Roads. The HU public computer centers have been designed to be user friendly and receptive as well as accessible to individuals who are physically challenged. Moreover, the facility has space for children's computing as many low income, disadvantaged, jobless individuals do not have the funds to pay for child care while pursuing employment, retooling or expanding their workplace skills. All Hampton City center are welcoming and equipped for persons with disabilities. The City's four (4) libraries already include equipment for the disabled, such as handicap accessible entrances and exits to the libraries, and tables made especially for
easy computer access for handicapped individuals. Both the West Hampton Community Center and the new Hampton Teen Center will include the same handicapped accessible equipment as the libraries. This project has the opportunity to reach at minimum 153,000 persons within the city of Hampton, Hampton University and Surry County, VA. Sixty nine percent of the population served is forty five years old and below, the median household income is $46,462.00, the non high school completion rate is fifteen percent and the May 2009 unemployment rate was 7.9%. This project will directly create four new fulltime jobs and at least two part time jobs. More importantly, the workforce training effort will qualify 29 IT personnel, 25 business personnel and 50 health care workers for new jobs. Founded in 1868, as a normal school, HU is a private historically Black institution of higher education located in Hampton, Virginia. It has been successfully acquiring and managing federal grants and funds since the early seventies. Over the years, the University has managed as much as $55 million in Federal funds per annum. For this project the university has indentified Major General (Ret) Wallace Arnold to serve as Principal Investigator and Mrs. Leslies Fuentes, IT Director City of Hampton to lead the city's effort. Since retiring from the Army, General Arnold has served as Corporate Vice President for an information technology company, Senior Business Development Officer for a Fortune 500 information technology company. As the interim President of a Historically Black University, he was responsible for a forty million dollar operating budget. Further, as the university's Chief Executive Officer he had the signatory for all federal, state and private grants. In addition, he currently serves as the Hampton Leslie Fuentes was named the Director of Information Technology for the City of Hampton, Virginia in 2008. Fuentes has over 20 years experience managing state and local government information technology. As the Director of Information Technology with the City of Hampton, Fuentes develops, implements, and directs the technology efforts for Hampton City government to include responsibility for information technology infrastructure, networks, communications, telephone systems, web services, office automation systems and PCs, security, disaster recovery, records management, geographic information systems and the portfolio of application systems. Fuentes also advises the City Manager's staff and city department managers on information technology services and security. This budget proposal for $3,014,015, with an additional twenty percent (20%) is an in-kind contribution by Hampton University and the City of Hampton demonstrates the soundness of the project, the serious commitment of the applicant and a firm belief that it can be sustained and become more important in the future. The budget is well balanced between the initial start-up investments in the first year and maintaining the operational momentum and transition in the second and third years. Every effort has been made to make this a fail-safe project over the next three years and beyond.