Executive Summary

Louisiana College has not addressed the issues of internet bandwidth since 2000. In that time, great strides have been made in broadband offerings to home, businesses, and institutions. Currently, within a 5 mile radius of the college campus, the average bandwidth available in a residential home is 20 mbps. The current available bandwidth to each computer on campus is roughly 20 kbps. This limits the capability of each machine on campus to provide internet services to our students, faculty, and staff. Despite these obvious technical issues, enrollment at the college has increased 47% in the past 5 years. Projections for the foreseeable future show this rate of growth to continue. Plans are being made to add a Medical School, a Law School, and a Film Institute. We cannot keep up with this type of growth with the current 8 mbps of internet bandwidth that we currently have available to us. The remedy these problems with the internet, we have formulated a plan to increase the bandwidth to 100 mbps utilizing metro ethernet feeds from local broadband providers. The plan also takes into account room for future growth of the college in areas such as increased enrollment, new Master's Programs, new Law School, new Medical School, new Film Institute, new Athletic programs, and other growth areas that are yet to be identified. Metro ethernet is a bandwidth offering that we can use to keep up with the ever increasing bandwidth needs of our campus. This project will not only affect the students, faculty and staff of the existing LC campus, but will have a long reaching impact on future educational opportunities both locally and globally. We estimate that by the year 2020, there will be over 2,000 students on our campus and hundreds more distant learners who will need broadband connectivity to complete their education. The 4 full-time employees of the Louisiana College Office of Information Technology have a combined 85 years of experience in the IT field. This experience, together with the experience of various contractors and vendors who will be contracted to work on this project, will more than adequately allow for the successful completion of this Sustainable Broadband Adoption program. It is estimated that an additional 3 to 4 positions in the IT Department will be needed in the not so distant future. This SBA program will accelerate the hiring of these additional personnel. The budget for the completion of the entire SBA project is currently estimated at $1,398,000.