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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Research and Education Network (PennREN)</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>
<b>State(s):</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$99,660,678</b>

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Pennsylvania Research and Education Network (PennREN) project is a partnership of leading universities, healthcare providers, library associations, and other key institutions. PennREN will be a nearly 1,700-mile fiber network that expects to expand broadband Internet access and directly connect 60 critical community anchor institutions in 39 counties across South and Central Pennsylvania. These anchor institutions include public and private universities, K-12 schools, public libraries, public broadcasting facilities, and medical facilities. With broadband speeds of 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps, PennREN is expected to enhance healthcare delivery, research, education, workforce development, and public safety. Wholesale services offered are expected to spur the offering of affordable broadband access for more than 2 million households, more than 200,000 businesses, and nearly 1,700 additional anchor institutions.

The Pennsylvania Research and Education Network project also proposes to:

- Become the main artery of healthcare information across the state, linking The Hospital and Healthcare Services Association of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, the Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative, and the Mountain Health Care Alliance.
- Expand university distance learning programs and allow research institutions to work collaboratively.
- Create more than 60 points of interconnection, of which 70 percent are in the Allegheny Mountains.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

The Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research brings together leading universities, healthcare providers, library associations, and other not-for-profit and for-profit organizations in Pennsylvania to create the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network. Even though the Keystone Initiative is a new organization, it is managed by leaders experienced in the design and operation of regional networks and advanced network services at a similar scale. The Keystone Initiative also plans to leverage operational support systems in place with major anchor institutions for the management of the proposed middle mile network.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Commission for Community Colleges
- Drexel University
- Fibertech
- Hospital Association of Pennsylvania
- Lehigh University
- Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

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