



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
Baltimore City Government
100 Holiday Street
Suite 250
Baltimore, MD 21202-3459

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

With three campuses and a research center located in Baltimore City, and two campuses just outside the city limits, the University System of Maryland enthusiastically supports Baltimore's bid to become a site for the Google Fiber for Communities initiative. Our graduates are the city's entrepreneurs, firefighters and nurses, doctors and lawyers. Our faculty produce world-class research, from ground-breaking vaccine development to software applications for classroom learning and video games. All face a future in which fast access to information will be critical to their success. If the extraordinary bandwidth to the citizens of Baltimore becomes available, our institutions will find innovative ways to take advantage of it.

Baltimore is reinventing itself as a city driven by the knowledge economy, with vibrant technology, education, and research sectors. Providing high-speed, open access networks to the city's residents and business community will provide a critical push toward achieving this goal, create tremendous opportunities to close the digital divide, and generate additional opportunities to extend the city's educational and research initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W E Kirwan".

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

1807
University of Maryland,
Baltimore

1856
University of Maryland,
College Park

1865
Bowie State University

1866
Towson University

1886
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

1898
Frostburg State University

1900
Coppin State University

1925
Salisbury University

1925
University of Baltimore

1925
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
Science

1947
University of Maryland
University College

1966
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

1985
University of Maryland
Biotechnology Institute