



News Release

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Idaho Libraries to Benefit from Ultra High Speed Broadband Network!

Boise, ID, Feb. 24, 2012 - **The Idaho Commission for Libraries joins Idaho Universities, Hospitals, INL, and the Idaho Education Network (IEN) in leveraging state's association with the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON).**

Boise, ID, Feb. 24, 2012 – Idaho Commission for Libraries, and IRON (the Idaho Regional Optical Network), today announced that the Commission became the first state agency to take advantage of the Idaho Department of Administration's charter association with IRON. Connectivity to IRON's ultra-high-speed fiber optic network will expand broadband communications access and connectivity throughout Idaho to community anchor institutions, including public libraries, schools, community colleges, universities, research parks, public safety, and health care institutions.

"The Idaho Commission for Libraries is pleased to be IRON's latest Charter Associate, establishing direct connectivity to the Idaho Regional Optical Network. This will speed the connections to online resources accessed through the Library Commission's lili.org portal," said State Librarian, Ann Joslin. IRON was instrumental in assisting the Commission in preparing its successful application for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funds to expand public access computing and broadband access to Idaho's least connected public libraries. Users of lili.org resources such as Consumer Health, Small Business Reference, and Automobile Reference Center will notice lower latency as the connections are made via the nation's ultra-high-speed, fiber optic, broadband networks.

Chartered in late 2007, "IRON" (www.ironforidaho.net) is a cooperative effort between five universities located in the Northwest region of the United States, the State of Idaho, the Idaho Hospital Association, and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), to establish a high-performance Regional Optical Network (RON) within the State of Idaho. IRON is owned, operated and managed by its **Charter Associates**. Today, only three years after its inception, IRON provides

Lighting Idaho, Connecting Communities



low-cost, high-speed bandwidth to more than 175,000 students, teachers, researchers, and health care professionals across the state of Idaho.

Organizations eligible to participate in the Idaho Regional Optical Network, Inc. (IRON), an independent, not-for-profit Idaho corporation, include those engaged in research, public and private education, health care, and economic development; as well as libraries, museums, and local, state, and federal government agencies. IRON, like 40 similar organizations operating in other states across the country, provides access and connectivity, at speeds of up to 10 billion characters per second, to both of the nation's advanced research and education broadband networks, Internet2 (www.internet2.org), and the National Lambda Rail (www.nlr.net).

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele by offering professional development opportunities and other training for library staff, providing a variety of programs and services for libraries to offer to their communities, and providing online resources through the libraries that are available to all Idaho residents. For more about the Commission, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.

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