



Notes from eCOMMUNITY Alabama session

Tuesday, August 16, 2011 - 6:00 p.m. - Tuskegee Municipal Complex, Tuskegee, AL 36083

Mayor Omar Neal - Presiding

also **Hon. Georgette Moon**, City of Tuskegee District 3 Councilwoman

Trenches will be dug to each household, at a shallow depth.

Dr. Henry Findlay - Tuskegee University Director of Continuing Education

Dr. Findlay gave a brief training session on employment applications and the items employers are looking for in hiring. The number one aspect desired by employers is: Good Interpersonal Skills. He said that they seek IRS or Interpersonal Relationship Skills. He said they need those that can work with another person and on a team.

He discussed how your attitude helps you keep the job, once you obtain it. He said that communication skills were important. These include both speaking and writing. He told the story of someone that was not hired because they were not able to write a half page letter. He mentioned that non-verbal skills are important during the interview. He has a list of 71 non-verbal skills that many employers notice during the interview process.

Also mentioned was the need to complete all of the application form. Mayor Neal volunteered his staff to assist anyone in completing the form, so that it will not become an obstacle.

Yolanda of A2D Trillion Communications Corporation

also **Rochon Gaines** of Trillion Communications Inc.

Their company is 4 years old. They received the largest funded grant under the Obama administration for Broadband in Alabama. They are a minority firm out of Atlanta, GA. They learned during the process that writing is very important. They were contacted continuously during the process, both day and late at night, to answer questions and submit information in writing.

For more information on the project, go to: www.ecommunityalabama.org

They will be laying 22 miles of fiber, with a 3.6 Giga Wireless Overlay. They will bring Broadband to 14,650 households in an 8 county area.

In Tuskegee, they have designated the project a “Last Mile” project. This means that all households in the Tuskegee city limit will receive the free service. Others in Macon County will be covered, according to location. Their mission is to serve those not served and those under served.

The installation involves several Phases. The first Phase was for Lowndes County, AL. The second Phase is for Macon County, AL. For those not in Tuskegee, there is an opportunity on line to tell your story of the need for Broadband. This can facilitate consideration for bringing service to your area.

There will be 3 more events in preparation for the project:

August 23, 2011 - 6:00 p.m. - Municipal Complex, Tuskegee, AL

All the Major Partners will be in Tuskegee to explain the complete project and answer questions.

August 27, 2011 - all day - Tuskegee, AL

All Macon County Day. eCommunity Alabama will have a booth for interactions with the public.

August 30, 2011 - 5:00 p.m. - Municipal Complex, Tuskegee, AL

All project Contractors will be in Tuskegee to announce employment opportunities and business opportunities.

Are the services limited?

Fiber is so much more ahead of the current technology available in Macon County. The network will be an “Intranet” versus the “Internet”. This means it will be self-contained with communication to local providers and information content sources. This will include online courses and more. However, for those wanting the internet service, they now can choose beyond the current offerings, at possible savings and expanded service. The other companies could not install an infrastructure, because of expense. That barrier is being removed by eCommunity Alabama. Now any company is available to the customer, regardless of their location, outside Alabama.

Will you connect all houses?

We wanted to do the whole state of Alabama, but they limited it to Census Blocks. We had to do a lot of homework. The Government paid 100% for all connections. There will also be Pods, that creates overlay. The City of Tuskegee will have all households included, because it is a Last Mile project. Macon County is a Middle Mile project.

With the infrastructure each resident has the option of tapping into Fiber Optic

You can get connectivity immediately, then decide if you want to change from Charter. All Tuskegee gets it free. We will provide a package of choices. There will be a small trench dug on your property to connect in. We will hire locally. The surveyors will do a short walk off to measure the distance for the fiber cable.

Did the Original Grant include a Tuskegee University Hub?

4 hubs will be done:

- 1) Tuskegee University at Moton Hall
- 2) Montgomery
- 3) Brewton
- 4) Lower Atmore

This will bring additional jobs, including a Call Center.

Is there Mapping to show where the coverage areas will be located?

Go to the website and see the 100% Connectivity and the additional areas. This is just the beginning. We are working for all Macon County households to be connected.

As far as Contractors and Sub-Contractors is there a target number of jobs?

The Contractors are solidified. We are now looking to hire locally to do the work.

For construction, we bid only 5 miles at a time, which will be evaluated before additional miles are bid. This allows quality control and no long term commitments to low quality work. We want to hire locally and have the job done properly, then they can earn an additional 5 miles.

Our jobs target is 1,200 jobs for all 8 counties, total.

We have a Notification Team ready to travel, groom and communicate the information needed.

Can youth be hired? We just have hired 3 youth.

We are looking for skills in potential employees and those that can make an impact. We are giving opportunities to those that have been forgotten about.

Please give clarification on what you mean by hiring locally exclusively and the skills needed for hiring.

We will hire locally from the 8 counties included in the project. We must complete the project by 2013. We need: construction teams, small machine operators, tractor operators, electricians, construction managers, inspection teams.

The CEO is big on service. We are looking for: a receptionist, an administrative assistant, a field service technician.

For our Notification Team, we need: Community Relations Specialist, Outreach Teams, Notification Assistant, Notification Specialist, Outreach Leads person, and someone to setup the local Outreach events. We also need an Outreach Assistant and some general laborers.

When will you setup Tuskegee?

We are working on the dates.

Who is We?

We collaborate with four (4) companies / organizations: Trillion, A2D, SCABC, A Plus.

Who hires me?

Go to the website for available jobs. This week there were people hired. Go through the website for information.

Some will be hired by community leaders and others by the Human Resources Department of the project. You can go by the office or on-site. We expect the best from those we hire. We also keep applications on file. This is only the beginning step. Contact the City of Tuskegee for assistance in completing any employment or contract forms. Don't let the form be an obstacle to getting hired.

I am a young man, 27 years old and went to a party, where I smoked something. Will I be drug tested?

This is a Federal Grant with a large reputation behind the grant. YES! You must be tested for all Government employment.

What about ex-felons that are trying to re-enter society?

We are partnering with non-profits that have a target mission to get them back on slate. We are looking at the whole situation. We might have background checks, but we are looking to see if they have been back in trouble and have they applied themselves to get back into society. How long ago did the felony take place? We don't exclude based solely on that. This is to help put us back and be recognized not on what we did, but on what we can do.

Is Trillion the Lead?

This is an \$86 million grant. The Government said we must partner with a larger group.

A2D is the fiduciary partner. They report on all spending and hiring. They report each week to A2D and A Plus.

A Plus controls the quality of the project.

SCABC administers the jobs and more responsibilities will be turned over to them, because the project will be owned by the community.

On August 23rd, Mr. Wood from Trillion and all the entities will be in Tuskegee to answer more questions and to present other information.

I am from Notasulga and I have Centrum as our cable and data provider.

We are dealing with institutions in the Middle Mile. This includes Fire Departments, Public Safety agencies, Schools, Libraries and more. You can even get Certified on-line through training courses. Even the Utilities are impacted.

We have to cover 22 thousand miles for all 8 counties. If you are impacted by lack of coverage in this project, tell your story.

Some of the members of the Planning Commission are here:

Roselle Chappelle - Chairman

Major Holland - Project Architect

Dr. Iverson Gandy - Commission Member

For applications, you can apply on-line. Call the 800 number if you don't have access to the web.