

2502 South Main Street • Hope, AR 71801

Phone: 870-777-3076

Fax: 870-777-5793

Hempstead County

Blevins

Hope

Spring Hill

Lafayette County

Lafayette

Miller County

Fouke

Genoa

Texarkana

Nevada County

Nevada

Prescott

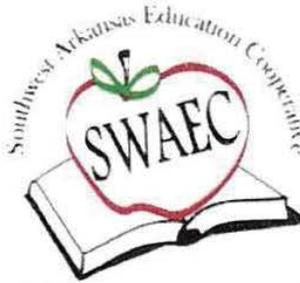
In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator with the excellent background of Dr. Hernandez has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to show my support with this letter.

Southwest AR Education Co-op represents nine districts in a four county area of south AR with approximately 12,000 students. SWAEC serves many poverty students. The average free and reduced rate for our area is 70%. In many of our districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Southwest Co-op wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary expertise at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state



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would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a deep understanding of the endless possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in a large city or rural Arkansas, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. Expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the member districts of Southwest AR Education Service Cooperative, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Bailey, Director

Jasper School District
Jeff Cantrell, Superintendent
P.O. Box 446
Jasper, Arkansas 72641

BOARD MEMBERS:

TELEPHONE (870)446-2223

Stacey Clark, President
Shannon Skyrme, Vice President
Quentin Rylee, Secretary
Randy Treat
Joel Brasel
Skip Emmett
Clarissa Stepp

August 12, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Jasper School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Jasper School District represents a district with nearly 870 students, employs approximately 185 teachers and support staff, and covers over 600 square miles in rural, isolated, and mountainous Newton, Johnson, Madison, Franklin, and Carroll counties in Arkansas. My district serves students in sparsely populated counties of which approximately 72% qualified for free and reduced meals during last school year. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Jasper School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student

"An Equal Opportunity Educational Institution"

Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors

August 12, 2015

Page 2

with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Jasper School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Cantrell
Superintendent of Schools



Charleston School District

P.O. Box 188
Charleston, AR 72933
Phone (479) 965-7160
Fax (479) 965-9989

Superintendent
Jeff Stubblefield

Elementary Principal
Bruce Womack

Middle School Principal
Melissa Moore

High School Principal
Shane Storey

Curriculum Specialist /
Federal Coordinator
Susan Brown

Board President
Trey Gage

Board Vice-President
Brian Verkamp

Board Secretary
Joel McDonald

Disbursing Officer
Michele Schmitz

Board Member
Jeff Hayes

August 12, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Charleston School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's qualifications has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Charleston School District represents a district with 913 students (pre-k through 12) as of today's date. My district's Free and Reduced rate is 43.95% in a rural setting. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Charleston School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate

that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. He has worked in several different districts representing a wide range of student demographics. I personally feel that he represents the interests of all students. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Charleston School District respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Stubblefield". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and "S".

Jeff Stubblefield,

Superintendent

NEMO VISTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5690 Highway 9
CENTER RIDGE, ARKANSAS 72027
"Home of the Red Hawks"

CODY L. BEENE, Superintendent

Phone (501) 893-2925

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Nemo Vista School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Nemo Vista School District represents a district with nearly 450 students, and a rural community with varying demographics. My district serves approximately sixty-two percent of low-income students. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Nemo Vista School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences,

Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Nemo Vista School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Beene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cody Beene

Superintendent



POYEN PUBLIC SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT OFFICE
14296 HWY 270
POYEN, AR 72128
501-332-8884
FAX 501-332-8886

August 11, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Poyen School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Poyen School District represents a district with nearly 600 students, and is a rural area. My district serves 60 % low income. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Poyen School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building

upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Mike has experience as a teacher, administrator, and with the Arkansas Department of Education. He has experience in both large and small school districts. Mike is experienced working with both school personnel and government groups. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Poyen School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

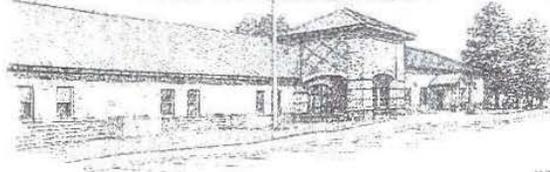


Jerry R. Newton
Superintendent

HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. BOX 1176 – HAMPTON, AR 71744

JIMMY CUNNINGHAM, Superintendent
JANA YOUNG, Assistant Superintendent
BRYAN SANDERS, High School Principal
TOM SAWYER, Elementary Principal



President, ALAN FERGUSON

Vice President, BRANDON EVANS

Secretary, CODY ABLES

Phone: 870-798-2229

Fax: 870-798-2239

Board Members

JOHN H. THOMPSON

JAMES RAWLS

www.edline.net/pages/Hampton_Public_Schools

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Hampton School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Hampton School District represents a district with nearly 550 students. My district serves 73% low-income, rural, etc. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Hampton School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

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I, on the behalf of the Hampton School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimmy Cunningham
Superintendent

South Side Public Schools



Billy Jackson, Superintendent

**334 Southside Road
Bee Branch, AR 72013
(501) 654-2335
(501) 654-2336 Fax**

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the South Side Bee Branch Schools in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The South Side Bee Branch Schools represent a district with nearly 550 students K-12, located in a rural area in the boot heels of the Ozarks Mountains on Hwy 65, 60 miles north of Little Rock Arkansas. The district serves rural low income families with very few businesses in the area, over 42% of our students are on free or reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The South Side Bee Branch Schools wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature.

The South Side School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, qualified handicap or veteran.

South Side Public Schools



Billy Jackson, Superintendent

334 Southside Road
Bee Branch, AR 72013
(501) 654-2335
(501) 654-2336 Fax

Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have worked with Dr. Hernandez as a school superintendent and as a board member of the Arch Ford Educational Cooperative. He works very hard for the rural schools in making sure students in the rural areas have the same advantages as other schools. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the South Side Bee Branch Schools, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Billy Jackson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billy Jackson, Superintendent
South Side Bee Branch Schools

The South Side School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, qualified handicap or veteran.



In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Greenbrier School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Greenbrier School District represents a district with nearly 3,400 students in a rural community. My district serves 40% students receiving free and reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Greenbrier School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Greenbrier School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Spainhour". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Spainhour

Waldron School District

1560 West 6th Street
Waldron, Arkansas 72958
(479)637-3179

Gary Wayman, Superintendent
Daniel Fielding, High School Principal

Kim Solomon, Middle School Principal
Ryan Walker, Elementary Principal

August 13, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Waldron School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Waldron School District represents a district with nearly 1650 students in rural Arkansas. The district is a high poverty area with over 72% of students receiving free or reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Waldron School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. As superintendent, I have worked with Dr. Hernandez on several district and state financial issues over the past couple of years. He is knowledgeable and demonstrates a willingness to help local school districts. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional

Waldron School District

1560 West 6th Street
Waldron, Arkansas 72958
(479)637-3179

Gary Wayman, Superintendent
Daniel Fielding, High School Principal

Kim Solomon, Middle School Principal
Ryan Walker, Elementary Principal

development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Waldron School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Gary Wayman
Superintendent



PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Pulaski County Special School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

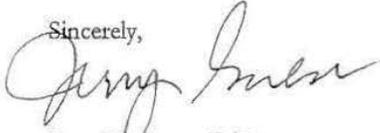
The Pulaski County Special School District represents an urban district with nearly 17,500 students. My district serves a population which includes 57% low income families. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Pulaski County Special School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have worked with Dr. Hernandez for several years as a fellow superintendent and most recently worked with him as the Deputy Director for the Arkansas Department of Education. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry D. Guess". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Jerry D. Guess, Ed.D.
Superintendent

POCAHONTAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DARYL BLAXTON, SUPERINTENDENT



2300 NORTH PARK STREET

POCAHONTAS, AR 72455

PHONE: 870-892-4573

FAX: 870-892-8857

Pocahontaspsd.com

August 8, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Pocahontas School District, in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Pocahontas School District represents a district with nearly 1900 students. We are a rural district in Northeast Arkansas. 50% of our district is row crop land and 50% is cattle country. A chicken processing plant, which will employ 1,000 people is currently being constructed which will significantly enhance the poultry industry within the community and region. Approximately 62% of the students in our district are from low income. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Pocahontas School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez served our state well during his time at the Arkansas Department of Education and I had the privilege of participating in leadership training with Mike. He is an excellent educator and a quality person. At the

Respectfully,
Daryl Blaxton, Superintendent
Pocahontas Public Schools

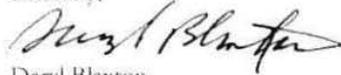
Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Pocahontas School District respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Daryl Blaxton
Superintendent of Schools



BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Bryant School District in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Bryant School District represents a district with nearly 9,200 students, is the geographical center of the state. My district serves 39% of low income students. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Bryant School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Mike is smart, flexible in thinking and can articulate his positions and thoughts to every level of understanding dependent upon his audience. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Superintendent

standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Bryant School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom W. Kimbrell', written over a horizontal line.

Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education
Stan Sadler
Harrell Wilson
Rickey Spencer
William King
Tony White
Charlene Freeman
Willie Rainey

Cleveland County School District

P. O. Box 600 700 Main
Rison, AR 71665

Superintendent
Johnnie Johnson

Kingsland Elementary - Rison Elementary - Rison High

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Cleveland County School District in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administration Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Cleveland County School District represents a district with nearly 890 students in a rural Arkansas area of approximately 48% low-income rural patrons. In many Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate internet connections. The Cleveland County School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of the few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

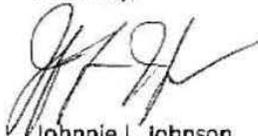
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. His experience as an educator, administrator, active member of many state educational associations, and Deputy Commissioner at the Arkansas Department of Education, has given him vast knowledge of our state of Arkansas. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on behalf of the Cleveland County School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnnie L. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Johnnie L. Johnson
Superintendent



KIPP DELTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

413 Ohio Street
Helena-West Helena
Arkansas, 72342
Phone: 870.733.9035
Fax: 870.733.9440
www.kippdelta.org

August 12, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of KIPP Delta Public Schools in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

KIPP Delta Public Schools serves nearly 1500 students, 90% of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch, across three rural communities in Eastern Arkansas. In the communities we serve broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and wide rural expanse, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way we can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. KIPP Delta Public Schools wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

**KIPP DELTA
COMMUNITIES**

HELENA-WEST
HELENA
BLYTHEVILLE
FORREST CITY

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez has always been approachable and responsive whenever we have need support. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide. The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of KIPP Delta Public Schools, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Scott Shirey
Executive Director



Gentry Public Schools



201 South Giles Avenue
Gentry, Arkansas 72734

Telephone: 479-736-2253 Fax: 479-736-2245 e-Mail: drbarrett@gentrypioneers.com

August 12, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

No doubt you will receive numerous letters of strong support regarding the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. Rather than model my thoughts on his many skills and virtue as an intelligent, upcoming Arkansas administrator, I will simply offer the following simple observations based on first-hand knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez is not a neophyte; he is well respected and has proven himself to be successful both at the local and state levels of public education. He is thoughtful and deliberative in both his speech and actions. He has a pleasant yet professional demeanor in his dealings with others. I believe him to be a team player. His leadership background in working with rural Arkansas school denizens, and those higher powers than govern them, in issues of connectivity and broadband access by itself should warrant a seat on the USAC Board of Directors.

Speaking now as a 40 year veteran of Arkansas public education, if you are looking for an individual the State of Arkansas and others will see as a logical, reasonable, and prudent choice for the USAC Board of Directors, Mike Hernandez is your candidate.

Selected or not, he will remain on my personal four decade "short list" of quality Arkansas educators.

Sincerely,

Randy C. Barrett, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Gentry Public School District

The mission of the Gentry School District is to work with the community in providing safe and successful experiences for each student.



In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Glen Rose School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Glen Rose School District represents a district with over 1,000 students, spread over two counties. My district serves students of moderate to low income levels, in a rural part of Arkansas. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Glen Rose School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas

legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

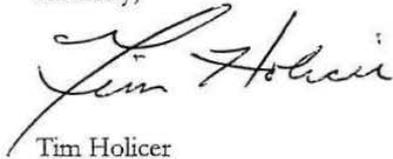
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Glen Rose School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Holicer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tim Holicer

Superintendent

Horatio Public Schools

Office of Superintendent
PO Box 435, Horatio, Arkansas 71842 • (870) 832-1940 • Fax (870) 832-4465
www.horatiohschools.org

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Horatio School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Horatio School District represents a district with nearly 880 students in rural Southwest Arkansas. My district serves a student population consisting of nearly 30 percent Hispanic, and 70 percent white with a small population of Black and Native American students. We are a high poverty school with a free or reduced population of 74 percent. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Horatio School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars,

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provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have been acquainted with him as a superintendent for a little over a year and have witnessed him in legislative committee meetings and superintendent symposiums. He is highly knowledgeable and experienced with instructional technology and connectivity issues. He also serves Arkansas Public Schools well with regard to communicating with policy makers. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

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I, on the behalf of the Horatio School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Lee Smith, Superintendent
Horatio Public Schools

Member of North Central Association

Corning Public Schools

Superintendent

Kellee Smith

P.O. Box 479
Corning, AR 72422
870-857-6818



Board of Education

Keith Turner
Billy Allen
Kirk Scobey
Vickie Robinson
Kenny Francis

August 12, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Corning School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Corning School District represents a district with nearly 1,000 students, located in a rural farming community. My district serves students from all backgrounds but we are predominately a poor district. That is evidenced by a free/reduced lunch rate of 70%. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Corning School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I had the privilege of attending a year-long leadership institute with Dr. Hernandez. It was evident he cares deeply about the students of Arkansas. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Corning School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kellee Smith".

Kellee Smith, Superintendent