



CLARKSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

David Hopkins, Ed.D. - Superintendent

**1701 CLARK ROAD • CLARKSVILLE, ARKANSAS 72830
TELEPHONE: 479-705-3200 • FAX: 479-754-3748**

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 Clarksville 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 Clarksville School District serves 2700 students that reside in our small town and its surrounding rural area. The community is located along the I-40 corridor at the foot of the Ozark Mountains in western Arkansas. My district serves a Hispanic population that is nearly 30% of our total population and a free and reduced lunch population of over 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 Clarksville 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 have personally worked with Dr. Hernandez concerning educational issues that have risen within my district. I have also had the opportunity to work with him on statewide issues when I served as president of the Arkansas Rural Education Association and president of the Arkansas School Administration Association. He was always driven to help school districts to find the best way to serve their unique student populations. 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 Clarksville 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 "David Hopkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

David Hopkins
Superintendent

Greene County Technical School District

5413 West Kingshighway, Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: (870) 236-2762 Fax: (870) 236-7333

Mr. Gene Weeks, Superintendent

Mrs. Amy Lucius, Asst. Supt. for Instructional Programs

Mr. Scott Gerrish, Asst. Supt. for Non-Instructional Programs

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 Greene County Tech 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 Greene County Tech School District represents a district with nearly 3,700 students; we have a large portion of our district that is rural. Over 50% of our student body is made up of low-income homes. 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 Greene County Tech 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 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 Greene County Tech 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 "Gene Weeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene Weeks

Greene County Tech School District

Superintendent



Rogers Public Schools

where all belong, all learn, and all succeed

500 West Walnut Street
Rogers, Arkansas 72756

Phone: 479-636-3910
Fax: 479-631-3504

Dr. Janie Darr, Superintendent
Mr. Mark Sparks, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Roger Hill, Human Resources Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Virginia Abernathy, Elementary Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Robert Moore, Secondary Assistant Superintendent

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 Rogers 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 Rogers School District is in the rapidly growing Northwest Arkansas region and serves nearly 15,000 students with diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. 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 Rogers 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 found him to be outstanding in his relationships with school districts and various departments at the state and national levels. 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 Rogers 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 "Janie Darr".

Janie Darr, Ed.D

Superintendent

HARRISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

110 South Cherry Street, Harrison, AR 72601

MELINDA MOSS, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone 870/741-7600
Fax 870/741-4520
E-mail: mmoss@hps.k12.ar.us

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 Harrison 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 Harrison School District represents a district with nearly 2,800 students, nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. My district serves a relatively rural population with a 51% free and reduced lunch rate. 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 Harrison 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 a matter of fact, I feel so highly about Mike that I tried to hire him as my Assistant Superintendent earlier in his career. He is an exceptionally intelligent man with a true heart for students and doing the right thing. 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

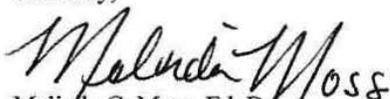
implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of 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 Harrison 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,



Melinda C. Moss, Ed. D.

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1403 High School Drive
P. O. Box 649
Magnolia, Arkansas 71754-0649

John D. Ward
Superintendent of Schools

(870) 234-4933 • Fax (870) 901-2508

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 Magnolia 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 Magnolia School District represents a district with nearly 3,000 students, located in rural South 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 Magnolia 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.

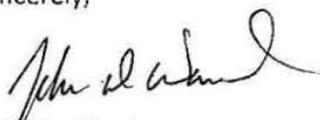
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation 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 Magnolia 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,



John D. Ward



East Poinsett County School District

502 McClellan Street

Lepanto, Arkansas 72354

Phone: (870) 475-2472 Fax: (870) 475-3531

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 their 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 East Poinsett County School District represents a district with nearly 715 students, from the delta. My district serves 75 percent free and reduced 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 East Poinsett 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 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 has 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 East Poinsett County 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 "Michael Pierce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Michael Pierce, Superintendent
East Poinsett County School District

Bergman Schools

P.O. Box 1
Bergman, AR 72615
(870) 741-5213
(870) 741-6701 Fax

Joe Couch, Superintendent

jcouch@bergman.k12.ar.us

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 Bergman 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 Bergman School District represents a district with nearly 1,125 students, from the 114 square miles of rural Boone County. Approximately 54% of our students receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch and approximately 650 of our students are transported on one of our 12 bus routes. 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 Bergman 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 has a long history of making decisions that provides support and encouragement for students, staff, and communities across 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.

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I, on the behalf of the Bergman 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,



Joe B. Couch



OZARKS UNLIMITED RESOURCES COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 610
PHONE: (870) 429-9100
FAX: (870) 429-9099
www.oursc.k12.ar.us

Valley Springs, AR 72682-0610

Rick Nance, Director

MEMBERSHIP

BAXTER COUNTY

Cotter S.D.

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

BOONE COUNTY

Alpena S.D.
Bergman S.D.
Harrison S.D.
Lead Hill S.D.
Omaha S.D.
Valley Springs S.D.

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Ozarks Unlimited Resources Education Service Cooperative (O.U.R. Co-op) 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.

CARROLL COUNTY

Berryville S.D.
Eureka Springs S.D.
Green Forest S.D.

The cooperative employs 109 staff who provides services to 16 districts and the approximately 2,450 district employees in Northern Arkansas. These 16 districts serve approximately 15,000 students in an extremely rural area of the Ozark Mountains. The majority of these districts are serving student populations that include a growing number of students that fall in the low-socioeconomic classification. In addition, two districts' student populations are approximately forty percent Hispanic with many of those students being English as a second language 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 O.U.R. 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 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.

MADISON COUNTY

Jasper S.D.
Kingston Campus

MARION COUNTY

Flippin S.D.
Ozark Mountain S.D.
Bruno-Pyatt Campus
Yellville-Summit S.D.

NEWTON COUNTY

Deer / Mt. Judea S.D.
Jasper S.D.
Jasper Campus
Ozark Mountain S.D.
Western Grove Campus

SEARCY COUNTY

Ozark Mountain S.D.
St. Joe Campus
Searcy County S.D.
Leslie Campus
Marshall Campus

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

NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE

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 O.U.R. Co-op 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,



Rick Nance
Director
O.U.R. Co-op

301 COLLEGE STREET
PO BOX 220
CALICO ROCK, AR 72519
PHONE: (870) 297-8339
FAX: (870) 297-4233

CALICO ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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 Calico Rock 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 Calico Rock School District represents a district with nearly 410 students, in a rural mountainous, farm and national forest area. My district also serves a community that relies on the lakes and rivers to produce seasonal tourism. Industry in the area consists mostly of logging and farming. Calico Rock, has very little to offer in regards to high paying jobs. The percentage of low socio-economic students is approximately 67% district wide. Travel in this rural setting is made difficult due to the mountainous, curvy and more often than you would expect, gravel roads. This makes for poor shipping of goods and services and is one reason companies locate elsewhere. 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 Calico Rock 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 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.

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August 12, 2015

Page 2

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez is a highly motivated, knowledgeable person with extraordinary abilities. He is an extremely effective communicator who routinely makes presentations at educator workshops across the 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 the behalf of the Calico Rock 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 Skidmore, Superintendent
Calico Rock School District

An Equal Opportunity Employer



RSD

Rector School District #1, P.O. Box 367, Rector, Arkansas 72461

"PROVIDING A FIRM FOUNDATION"

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 Rector 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 Rector School District represents a district with nearly 600 students, The Rector School is in a rural area with diversified farming operations such as row crops and livestock. My district serves rural families that have a 68% free and reduced lunch population. 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 Rector 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.

RSD



Rector School District #1, P.O. Box 367, Rector, Arkansas 72461

"PROVIDING A FIRM FOUNDATION"

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.

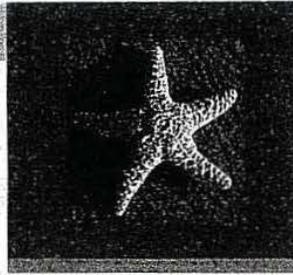
I, on the behalf of the Rector School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

Johnny Fowler
Johnny Fowler

*Roy Hester, Director
3010 E Hwy 22 Suite A
Branch, Arkansas 72928*



*Phone: 479-965-2191
479-635-5201
Fax: 479-965-2723*

*Guy Fenter
Education Service Cooperative*

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 Guy Fenter 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 of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative serves 21 school districts in western Arkansas with over 44,000 students, in a primarily rural part of the state. My Cooperative serves a population of students who are primarily from low-income, rural, homes. 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 Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative 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

*Roy Hester, Director
3010 E Hwy 22 Suite A
Branch, Arkansas 72928*



*Phone: 479-965-2191
479-635-5201
Fax: 479-965-2723*

*Guy Fenter
Education Service Cooperative*

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 personally worked with Dr. Hernandez while he was Superintendent of Schools in Danville, Arkansas and I know how much he cares about the children of Arkansas and wants only for them to have the best educational opportunities possible. 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 Guy Fenter 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.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Hester".



**Ashdown School District
Office of the Superintendent**

511 North Second Street
Ashdown, AR 71822
870-898-3208 FAX 870-898-3709



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 Ashdown 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 Ashdown School District represents a district with nearly 1450 students. We are a rural district in Southwest Arkansas. My district has a free and reduced lunch ratio of 65% and serves a majority of low income and rural 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 Ashdown 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.

¹The Vision of the Ashdown School District is to unite parents, community and staff in creating an environment to excellence and pride where students will choose to successful"
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



**Ashdown School District
Office of the Superintendent**

511 North Second Street
Ashdown, AR 71822
870-898-3208 FAX 870-898-3709



Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez has personally helped our school district with several E-Rate issues. He has always been a great communicator who is professional and does his best to assist the 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 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 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,

Jason N. Sanders



Superintendent

OZARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Assistant Superintendent 479-667-4118
Lucas Skaggs
High School Principal 479-667-4116
Jordan Price
Jr. High Principal 479-667-4747
Jerrod Burns
Curriculum Coordinator 479-667-4118
Taunya Parsons

JAMES H. FORD, SUPERINTENDENT
Administrative Office 479-667-4118
P. O. Box 135
Ozark, Arkansas 72949
Fax: 479-667-4092

4-5 Elementary Principal 479-667-3464
Shane Vincent
1-3 Elementary Principal 479-667-4745
Kelly Burns
Kindergarten Principal 479-667-3021
Jennifer King
Middle School Principal 479-468-6111
Matt Coleman

"EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION"

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 Ozark 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 Ozark School District represents a district with nearly 1900 students in rural, mountainous and river valley western Arkansas. My district serves rural students and 60-70% qualify for free or reduced lunch. 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 Ozark 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.

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 Ozark 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,



James H. Ford
Superintendent
Ozark School District
Ozark, AR

ALPENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PO Box 270, Alpena, AR 72611 ~ 870.437.2220 Voice, 870.437.2133 Fax

Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent
Phone: 870-437-2220
Fax: 870-437-2133
amartin@alpena.k12.ar.us

Mr. Steve Watkins, High School Principal
Phone: 870-437-2228
Fax: 870-437-5638
swatkins@alpena.k12.ar.us

Mrs. Paula Newton, Elementary Principal
Phone: 870-437-2229
Fax: 870-437-2133
pnewton@alpena.k12.ar.us

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 Alpena School District, 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 Alpena School District represents a district with nearly 600 students, located in the rural Ozark Mountains in Northwest Arkansas. My district serves three counties, in which 75% of our students come from homes of low socioeconomic status. 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 Alpena 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 coordinate 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.

Home of the Leopards

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. His experiences as a teacher, former Superintendent in a rural district with a high concentration of English Language Learners, as well as his work with our State Department of Education have provided him a wealth of experiences and knowledge that would be an asset to this Board. 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 Alpena 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.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Andrea Martin
Superintendent

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Arkansas' Most Scenic School District

Superintendent
479-369-2121
Fax: 479-369-2138

129 Highway 71 S W
Mountainburg, AR 72946

Middle School Principal
479-369-4506
Fax: 479-369-4355

High School Principal
479-369-2146
Fax: 479-369-2845

Elementary School Principal
479-369-2762
Fax: 479-369-4302

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 Mountainburg 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 Mountainburg School District represents a rural school district with more 700 students and 197 square miles of mountains and valleys within its boundary. My district serves students who come from low income homes with over 70% free/reduced lunch recipients. 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 Mountainburg 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.

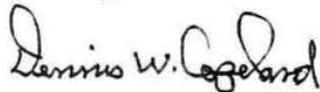
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have known Dr. Hernandez for eight years. He has always put kids first as a superintendent and member of the ADE staff. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven 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 Mountainburg 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 "Dennis W. Copeland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dennis W. Copeland,

Superintendent



Where it all comes together

PARAGOULD SCHOOL DISTRICT

1501 WEST COURT STREET • PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS 72450
(870) 239-2105 • FAX (870) 239-4697 • <http://paragould.k12.ar.us>

SUPERINTENDENT
DEBBIE SMITH

ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
SCOTT GAUNTT

DIRECTOR OF
INSTRUCTION
KARLA BLACKWOOD

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
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VICE PRESIDENT
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TREY BAILEY

BARRY BATEMAN
GREG GRAHAM

JEREMY HANCOCK
LILLIAN WHITE

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 Paragould 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 Paragould School District represents a district with nearly 3,100 students, located in rural Northeast Arkansas. My district serves a student population which consists of approximately 70% low income and 10% minority. 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 Paragould 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

The Paragould School District aspires to welcome all students into a safe, caring, and exiting educational environment filled with enriched activities and opportunities. Ultimately, all graduates will be equipped with knowledge, confidence, and a pathway to attain their dreams beyond high school. Our vision will be achieved through accurate, honest, and timely communication, connecting students, teachers, administrators, parents and patrons.

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 was instrumental in assisting my district the first year in which I became the superintendent, in that he provided me with his expertise in finances. 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 Paragould 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,

Debbie Smith, Superintendent

Midland School District

P.O. Box 630

Pleasant Plains, AR 72568

Dewayne Wammack
Superintendent
501-345-8844

Bani Meharg
Elementary Principal
501-345-2413

Donna Clark
High School Principal
501-345-2610

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 Midland 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 Midland School District represents a district with nearly 500 students, in a rural Arkansas area. My district serves a student body that is seventy-two percent Free and Reduced. 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 Midland 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-

Midland School District provides equal opportunities without regard to race, national origin, gender, age, or disabilities in its educational programs and hiring practices.

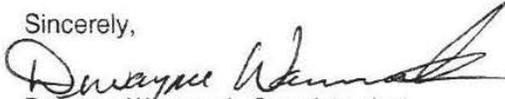
driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional 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 Midland 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 "Dewayne Wammack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "W".

Dewayne Wammack, Superintendent
Midland School District



WEST SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

7295 Greers Ferry Rd.

Greers Ferry, AR 72067

501-825-8258
Superintendent

501-825-7241
High School

501-825-7744
Elementary

501-825-7133
Federal Coordinator

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 West Side 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 West Side School District represents a district with nearly 460 students. My district serves approximately sixty percent free or reduced students in a rural area. 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 West Side 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 known Dr. Hernandez personally for about five years now. He and I were administrators at neighboring districts for a couple of years. He is an extremely intelligent and logical thinker who keeps the best interests of students at the forefront of his decision making. Dr. Hernandez was an outstanding hire at the Arkansas Department of Education and was very successful in his capacity during his time there. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization

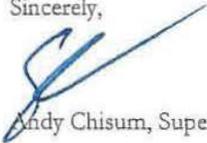
and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, 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 West Side 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, appearing to read 'Andy Chisum', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Andy Chisum, Superintendent

West Side School District