

MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

210 High School Drive
Mountain View, Arkansas 72560



Phone (870) 269-3443
Fax (870) 269-3446

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 Mountain View 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 Mountain View School District represents a district with nearly 1700 students in a rural area. My district serves approximately 65 percent low-income households. 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 Mountain View 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.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

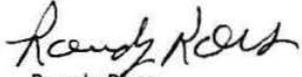
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Doug Daniel • Roxanne Davis • Bob Jones • Matt Dearien

◆
A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY AND EXCELLENCE

I, on the behalf of the Mountain View 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 "Rowdy Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rowdy Ross
Superintendent
Mountain View School District



Sheridan Public Schools



400 North Rock Street – Sheridan, Arkansas 72150 – Phone: 870-942-3135 – Fax: 870-942-2931

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

Insure

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Sheridan 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 Sheridan School District represents a district with nearly 4100 students, we are in a rural setting about 35 miles south from Little Rock and for the purposes for planning we are considered part of the metro planning. Our district contains 47.4% of households qualifying for free and reduced meals. Predominately our district is forested with some isolated farming operations, in addition about 600 employees work with Kohler Inc. The Sheridan School District employs 517 people, thus making us the second largest employer in Grant county. 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 Sheridan 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.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hernandez as a fellow superintendent and found his character, work ethics and his ability to communicate outstanding! Dr. Hernandez and I also attended graduate school together, and through many discussions we had, I feel he will be a student centered administrator. 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 Sheridan 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 "Jetrod K. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jetrod K. Williams
Superintendent
Sheridan School District



August 13, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District (JNPSD) 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.

JNPSD represents a district with nearly 4,200 students in a small town just north of Little Rock—the state's capital city. JNPSD is a poor school district with approximately 68 percent low-income student 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 JNPSD 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

Chairman Wheeler
August 13, 2015
Page 2

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 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 worked along side Mike at the Arkansas Department of Education and developed a personal relationship with him. He is a young educational leader who listens. He is self-disciplined, and he is persistent in accomplishing his goals. I'm proud to call him friend and colleague.

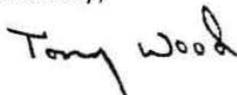
At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative 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 JNPSD 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 "Tony Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tony Wood
Superintendent

Bismarck School District
11636 HWY 84
BISMARCK, AR 71929-8170

ADMINISTRATION

Susan Stewart, Superintendent
501-865-4888 (4) Fax 501-865-3626
Larry Newsom, High School Principal
501-865-4541 Fax 501-865-4542
Mike Spraggins, Middle School Principal
501-865-4543 Fax 501-865-4505
Lana Hughes, Elementary Principal
501-865-3616 Fax 501-865-3947
Ellen Coleman, Curriculum Coordinator
501-865-4888 Fax 501-865-3626



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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 Bismarck 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 Bismarck School District represents a district with nearly 975 students, a small rural community with limited resources and no industry to speak of. My district serves a high majority of low income students, 63% qualifying for free/reduced meals. 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 Bismarck 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

BISMARCK SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Yellville-Summit Public Schools

1124 North Panther Avenue
Yellville, Arkansas 72687-9318

CALVIN MALLET
Principal - Elementary School
(870) 449-4244
Fax (870) 449-2214

WES HENDERSON
Superintendent of Schools
(870) 449-4061
Fax (870) 449-5003

DAVID WYATT
Principal - High School
(870) 449-4066
Fax (870) 449-4773

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 Yellville-Summit 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 Yellville-Summit School District represents a district with nearly 700 students, in a very rural area in the Ozark Mountains. My district serves a student population composed of approximately 70% that falls below the poverty level. 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 Yellville-Summit 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 Yellville-Summit 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 'Wes Henderson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wes Henderson

Superintendent of Schools

LITTLE SCHOLARS of ARKANSAS
"Embrace your Future"



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 LISA Academy 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 LISA Academy represents a district with nearly 1500 students, at Little Rock and Sherwood cities in central Arkansas. My district serves 609 low-income students with 41% of free and reduce 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 LISA Academy 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. On behalf of all LISA Academy parents, students and staff I thank to Dr. Hernandez for his huge contribution to the education in 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.

LITTLE SCHOLARS of ARKANSAS
"Embrace your Future"



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I, on the behalf of the LISA Academy, 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 "Atnan Ekin", written over a horizontal line.

Atnan Ekin, M.Ed.
Superintendent
LISA Academy Public Charter Schools



WEST MEMPHIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

JON COLLINS, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 826 • WEST MEMPHIS, AR 72303 • (870) 735-1915

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 Memphis 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 Memphis School District serves nearly 5,600 students in the heart of the Mississippi River Delta. My district serves a high minority population in one of the most economically depressed areas of the country. 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 WMSD 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.

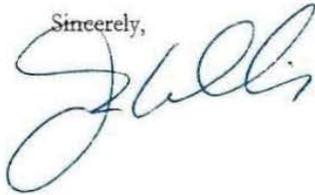
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The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, 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 Memphis 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 "J. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.



Piggott School District

429 East Main Street • P.O. Box 387 • Piggott, AR 72454-3087
870-598-2572 • Fax: 870-598-5283



August 14, 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 Piggott 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 Piggott School District represents a district with approximately 933 students. Piggott is in a very rural farming area. It is located in the far corner of Northeast Arkansas. Also it is a part of the Ridge of Crowley's Ridge. Piggott School District has 55% of low-income status.

In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansions are 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 Piggott 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 paying nearly \$2380 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 state wide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of the few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extended beyond his recent achievements. I have met with him on one occasion and was very impressed with his knowledge on the matter.

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 the 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 Piggott 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 you thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Charnelsa Powell
Superintendent
Piggott School District

CP/mn



**SPRING HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT
633 HWY 355 WEST
HOPE, AR 71801**

Angie Raney, Superintendent
Office #870-777-8236
FAX #870-777-9200
E-Mail: angie.raney@springhill.k12.ar.us

August 13, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Spring Hill 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 Spring Hill School District represents a district with nearly 600 students in the rural southwest corner of Arkansas. My district serves students all over the spectrum including a fifty-two percent free and reduced lunch population. We are also the second poorest district in the state based on assessed value while maintaining excellence in education ranking in the top twenty-percent academically in all of Arkansas. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Spring Hill 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 is very hard-working and dedicated to the job. 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 Spring Hill School District respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Raney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angela" and last name "Raney" clearly legible.

Angela Raney, Superintendent



LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"All Belong, All Learn, All Succeed"

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ADMINISTRATION

107 E. School St
Lincoln, AR 72744
479-824-7300
FAX 479-824-3045

Superintendent
Mrs. Mary Ann Spears
Federal Programs Coordinator
Jana Claybrook
Special Education Supervisor
Felicia Pasley
Child Nutrition Supervisor
Valerie Dawson
Maintenance/Transportation Supervisor
Steve Flickinger

August 12, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Lincoln Consolidated 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 Lincoln Consolidated School District is a small rural district of 146 square miles, approximately 1,200 students at a 72% poverty 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.

Lincoln Consolidated 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 Lincoln Consolidated 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 "Mary Ann Spears". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mary Ann Spears
Superintendent

Mount Ida School District
PO Box 1230
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Phone (870) 867-2323
Fax (870) 867-3734
www.mountidaschools.com

**Mount Ida School District
Office of the Superintendent**

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the Mount Ida 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.

I represent a small district in rural Arkansas made up of approximately 500 students. Many areas of our district are quite remote as we are in a mountainous region dominated by National Forest. We have 69% of our students on free and reduced lunch. In many Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections.

The Mount Ida 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 save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature.

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

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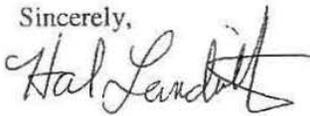
Mount Ida School District
PO Box 1230
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Phone (870) 867-2323
Fax (870) 867-3734
www.mountidaschools.com

barely accessible. As rural electrification was a priority that was achieved in the past century so should the expansion of broadband connectivity be in the 21st century. 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 Mount Ida 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,



Hal Landrith
Superintendent
Mount Ida Schools
hal.landrith@mtidalions.org
867-8672323

Proud Respected PRIDE Disciplined Educated
Involved



Jonesboro Public Schools
2506 Southwest Square
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Office of the Superintendent
kim.wilbanks@jonesboroschools.net

870-933-5800
Fax: 870-933-5838

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,

As the Superintendent of the Jonesboro School District in Jonesboro, 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.

The Jonesboro School District has approximately 6000 students with almost 75% of all students qualifying for free and reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Jonesboro 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.

On the behalf of the Jonesboro School District 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Wilbanks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Kim Wilbanks

MANILA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 670
MANILA, ARKANSAS 72442
TELEPHONE (870) 561-4419
FAX (870) 561-4410



August 12, 2015

Pamela Castor
Superintendent

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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 Manila 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 Manila School District represents a district with nearly 1,100 students, and is located in rural Northeast Arkansas. My district serves the parents, students, and patrons of the communities of Manila and Etowah, Arkansas, and is comprised of 64 percent low-income students. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Manila 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 Manila 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 "Pamela Castor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Pamela Castor, Superintendent
Manila School District

PC/pac

Lakeside School District

1110 S. Lakeshore Drive • Lake Village, Arkansas 71653

Phone: 870-265-7300 • FAX: 870-265-5466



SUPERINTENDENT

Billy Adams

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 Lakeside 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 Lakeside School District represents a district with nearly 1100 students. 85% of our students are from low income families. We live in an area that has the highest unemployment rate in the state. 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 Lakeside 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.

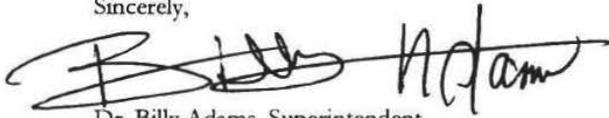
When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated 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.

I, on the behalf of the Lakeside 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 "Billy Adams". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline that extends across the name.

Dr. Billy Adams, Superintendent



School for Integrated Academics and Technologies
A Public Charter High School Network

Real Learning for Real Life®

August 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

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 SIATech Little Rock Charter High School in Arkansas we 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.

SIATech Little Rock Charter High School represents approximately 200 high-risk, low income, formerly dis-engaged students who have dropped out of school for a myriad of reasons and decided to re-enroll in order to earn a high school diploma. The high-tech, high-touch program is competency based and fully accredited. Technology and connectivity are crucial to our program success.

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.

SIATech, Inc. and Little Rock SIATech wholeheartedly support 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.

SIATech, Inc.
2611 Temple Heights Dr., Suite A
Oceanside, CA 92056
Phone: 760.945.1227
Fax: 760.631.3411

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

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Mike is a man of commitment and integrity with a laser-focused sense of purpose. 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, especially for the most at-risk students we serve.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Los Angeles or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic conversation. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible and often unstable. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the significant 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.

On behalf of SIATech, Inc. and Little Rock SIATech, we 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,



Linda C. Dawson, Ed.D.
Superintendent/CEO
SIATech, Inc.



Katie Tatum
Principal
SIATech, Little Rock

RESPONSIVE

August 14, 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 Responsive Education Solutions 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 Responsive Education Solutions – Arkansas represents a district with nearly 1050 students, in metropolitan and rural areas of Arkansas, my district serves a diverse student 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 Responsive Education Solutions – Arkansas wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

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

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. He has shown that educating today's youth as the primary focus in his career. 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.



P.O. Box 292730, Lewisville, TX 75029 • Phone: 972.316.3663 • Fax: 972.315.9506

ResponsiveEd.com PremierHighSchools.com FoundersClassical.com iSchoolHigh.com QuestMiddleSchools.com Vista-Academies.com K12.com/TXVA

RESPONSIVE

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 Responsive Education Solutions - Arkansas, 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,

Curtis D. Shack

Curtis Shack
Arkansas Program Manager
Regional Director of Operations
1301 Waters Ridge Drive
Lewisville, TX 75057
479-282-9971

RESPONSIVE 



P.O. Box 292730, Lewisville, TX 75029 • Phone: 972.316.3663 • Fax: 972.315.9506

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PRESCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

762 Martin Street
Prescott, Arkansas 71857
870-887-3016

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

On behalf of the Prescott 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 Prescott School District represents a district with nearly 1,035 students, in rural area in Southwest Arkansas. My district serves 70% low income families. In 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 Prescott 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 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 Prescott 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 "Robert Poole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert Poole, Superintendent

Elkins School District

"Committed to Excellence"

349 N. Center
Elkins, AR 72727
(479) 643-2172
Fax: (479) 643-3605

August 14, 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 Elkins 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 Elkins School District represents a district with nearly 1132 students, in a semi-rural in Northwest Arkansas. The district is approximately 90 % Caucasian and has a free and reduced lunch rate of 46%. 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 Elkins 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

K-2 Primary Elementary Office: 643-3380 3-6 Elementary Office: 643-3382
Middle School Office: 643-2552 High School Office: 643-3381

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

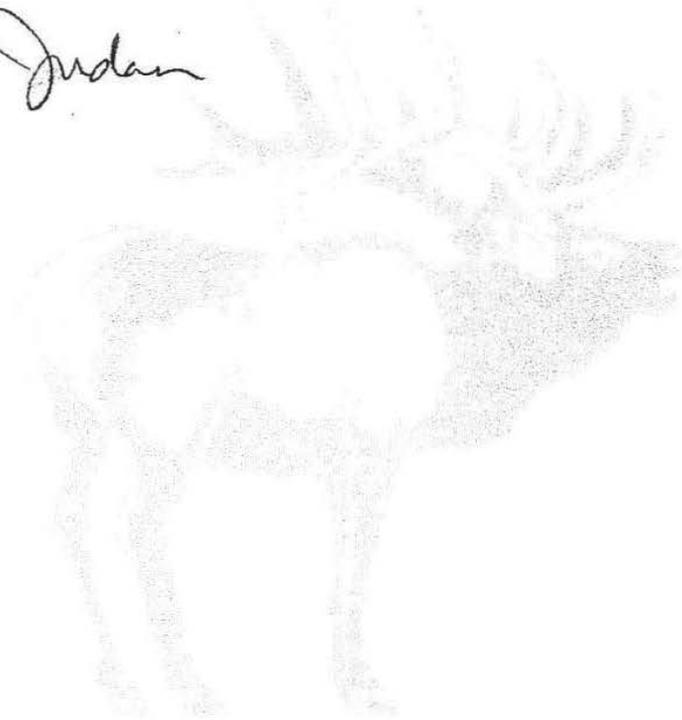
The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural 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 Elkins 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,



Dan Jordan
Superintendent





Hillcrest School District

Administration and High School
148 S. Main St. - P.O. Box 50
Strawberry, AR 72469
P: 870-528-3858 F: 870-528-3383

Elementary School
180 School Street - P.O. Box 70
Lynn, AR 72440
P: 870-528-3462 F: 870-528-3768

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 Hillcrest 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 Hillcrest School District represents a district with nearly 450 students, covering 300 sq miles that is not close to any major towns or cities. My district serves over 70% free and reduced lunch applicants. 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 Hillcrest 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.

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Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have had the pleasure to serve on the Finance Committee during legislative session over the past 6 years with Dr. Hernandez. During his time as Deputy Commissioner and his time as Superintendent, his leadership ability has served the State of Arkansas well. His technology expertise as well as financial insight will be vital for the future progress of rural schools as well as schools in urban areas to keep pace with the continuous growth of technology demands across the nation. 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 Hillcrest 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,

Elementary Principal
Shawn Rose

Superintendent
Greg Crabtree

High School Principal
Mickel Smith