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GRANT WOOD
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November 24, 2008

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, DC, 20554

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Grant Wood Area Education Agency and educational service agencies throughout the United States, I urge you to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, and serves on the Audit Committee. Dr. Talbott is a person of high integrity, and I believe he has served the Board admirably in his role as the chair of this board. I heartily endorse his continued service to our country in this role.

Through my leadership roles in the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), I have worked with and known Dr. Talbott for many years. Dr. Talbott's experience through AESA has given him a wealth of knowledge about the technology needs of both public and private schools and libraries. AESA members work with local school districts, private and parochial schools, public and school libraries, state departments of education and other educational entities to ensure all children are successful learners. One of the critical roles of ESAs is to make sure that schools provide proper access to technology to enhance students' learning. The roles that educational service agencies play within their states varies; in some states they are beneficiaries of the program, in others they serve as consultants to applicants, and in some they even act as service providers. Dr. Talbott's work in AESA has given him many important insights into the operation of the program from a number of different perspectives.

Dr. Talbott served as superintendent of Educational Service District 101 in Washington State where he was responsible for the operation of all programs, providing cooperative services to 59 public school districts and 54 private schools in eastern Washington. As the agency's chief executive, he served as general manager of the STEP/Star Network, one of the nation's oldest and largest distance learning networks.

Dr. Talbott has also served on the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Board and as past Vice-Chair of the Reading is Fundamental (RIFNet) Board, as well as a number of boards in his home state of Washington. In these roles, he has become quite knowledgeable about education and technology issues, and he has applied that knowledge in his various leadership roles within the education community.

I believe that Dr. Talbott's broad understanding of education and technology, coupled with his diligence and vision for quality education throughout the United States will continue to enrich the work performed by the USAC Board, should he remain on the Board and serve as its chair. His continued service on the USAC Board would also provide continuity and leadership for the Corporation, which is important in these unsettled times. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your approval of Dr. Talbott's re-nomination to the USAC Board of directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

A copy of his professional biography is attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Fielder, Ph.D.
Chief Administrator

Brian L. Talbott
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Chewelah, WA 99109
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Office: (703) 875-0739
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1997 to Present

Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), Arlington, Virginia
AESA is a professional association for educational service agencies (ESAs) which represents 551 ESAs in 44 state. The mission of AESA is to serve as the national voice for educational services agencies and to support learning, technical assistance, advocacy, and research for the membership.

1982-1998

Superintendent and General Manager STEP•Star Network, Educational Service District 101, Spokane, Washington
ESD 101 serves the largest geographic region in Washington State and provides service to 59 local public school districts, 54 private schools, and their respective boards. Responsible for oversight of the largest educational telecommunications network in the nation, coordinating and conducting programs in response to the needs of the educational community, assisting in equalizing educational opportunities and serving as a liaison between local schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1976-1982

Superintendent, Educational Service District 105, Yakima, Washington
Provide services to 25 local public school districts, 17 private schools, and their respective boards. Represent and provide liaison services between local districts and federal and state education agencies. Full responsibility for management of the educational service district.

1975-1976

Instructor: Graduate and Undergraduate Courses University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho
Administer student-aide teaching program. Coordinate needs assessment activities and curriculum development projects between local school districts and the university. Instruct in graduate level teacher education program.

1972-1975	**Superintendent, Granger School District, Granger, Washington** Full responsibility for all educational programs in a multi-ethnic, multilingual community. Responsibility for modernization of facilities and extensive state and federal programs.
1969-1972	**Principal, Granger High School, Granger, Washington** Full responsibility for building-level management. Extensive involvement in student/community projects.
1968-1969	**Vice Principal, Marysville High School, Marysville, Washington** Coordinator of building curriculum committee; responsible for student discipline and teacher performance.
1965-1968	**Secondary Teacher, Marysville School District, Marysville, Washington** Reading, Social Studies, Language Arts, and coaching responsibilities.

EDUCATION

1976	Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Research. College of Education, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
1968	Master of Arts in Educational Administration. Department of Education, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington.
1965	Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. Department of Education, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

CERTIFICATIONS

Superintendent, Principal, Teacher

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Association of Educational Service Agencies—Past Council Member and Past President

Reading is Fundamental (RFNet) – Advisory Board Member and Vice-Chairman

United States Distance Learning Association – Past Board Member

Washington State Department of Information Services Technology Policy and Review Committee—Past Member

KYVE Public Television Station – Past Board Member and Chairman

Washington State School Information Processing Cooperative Executive Board— Past Member and Chairman

National Telecommunications Organization—Past Executive Board Member

Alaska State Satellite Interconnection Planning Committee—Past Member

Washington State University Professional Education Advisory Board for Administration—Past Chairman

Washington State Rural Education Center—Past Executive Board Member

Gonzaga Professional Education Advisory Board for Superintendents—Past Chairman

Northeast Washington Association of School Administrators Past Executive Board—Member

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory—Past Executive Board Member

Southwest Regional Laboratory National Telecommunications—Expert Panel Member

Spokane Child Sexual Abuse Council—Past Member

State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Council for Post-Secondary Education Joint Study Task Force—Past Member

AWARDS AND HONORS

Washington Association of School Administrators Golden Gavel Award, 1998

Washington Association of School Administrators State Leadership Award, 1996

National Association of Educational Office Professionals National Educational Administrator of the Year, 1994/1995

Washington State University, Cougar Leadership Award, 1994

University of Idaho College of Education Outstanding Educator Award, October 1991

Washington Association of Educational Personnel, 1990 Educational Administrator of the Year

University of Idaho, College of Education, one of ten distinguished alumni, Centennial Commencement Celebration, 1989

Panorama Region (Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille counties) 1989/1990 Educator of the Year[

Washington State University, College of Education Dean's Award, 1985

Washington Association of School Administrators Distinguished Leadership Award, 1982

PUBLICATIONS

D. Hanna & C. Lutchen. *"Leadership and Management in Open and Flexible Learning",* book commissioned by Kogn Page, London. 2001 contributed the chapter *"Leading Learning in the Expanded K-12 Class Room."*

Talbott, Brian L. *The Relationship Between Oral Language Proficiency and Achievement in a Bilingual-Bicultural Elementary School: Doctoral Dissertation.* University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho (1976)

Bell, Thomas O.; Doyle, Vincent; and Talbott, Brian L. *Review Essay: The Mat-Sea-Cal Oral Proficiency Tests.* The Modern Language Journal (1977)

Talbott, Brian L. *Assessment: Where Do We Go From Here????* Washington State School Directors Compass, July/August (1977)

Holmes, Nancy and Talbott, Brian L. *Enhancing Quality Education in Rural Washington Schools.* Curriculum in Context, Vol. 13, Issue 1, Spring/Summer (1985)

Talbott, Brian L. *Classroom in the Sky.* Curriculum in Context, Vol. 115, Issue 1, Spring/Summer (1987)

Talbott, Brian L. *Stretching Limited Dollars: Finding Money For Your Distance Learning Program.* SAT-LINK, December Issue (1994)

Talbott, Brian L. *ESA Cost-Effectiveness Document in Washington Study.* Perspectives, a Journal of Research and Opinion about Educational Service Agencies (1995)

Miller, Wallace G.; Putnam, Carl; Schultheis, Leigh; and Talbott, Brian L. *The Sky's the Limit.* The American School Board Journal, March Issue (1992).

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