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PRESS RELEASE

MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE

Launches "Maryland's Broadband Map" Website

Building Coverage, Connection, and Choice

SALISBURY, MD (September 14, 2010) –

The Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC), in partnership with Salisbury University, Towson University, DBED and the Maryland Department of Information Technology has launched the interactive Maryland Broadband Map, signaling the completion of a key initiative to expand the reach of broadband services throughout the state. The online map, accessed at www.mdbroadbandmap.org, enables Maryland citizens to input a street address to generate a report of the various types of broadband services available and the companies that provide those services, as well as check their connection speed and report underserved areas. The map also benefits broadband service providers by allowing them to link from the map to their Web sites.

"The broadband mapping team has made every effort to create a broadband service discovery tool that is accurate and current for all addresses in Maryland," said Patrick Mitchell, President and CEO of MDBC. "We believe that the Maryland Broadband Map can serve consumers as the primary source they reach out to for reliable information about the state's broadband market."

A partnership sanctioned by Governor O'Malley and led by the MDBC has been working since November 2009 to develop Maryland's statewide database of broadband service areas and create the Maryland Broadband Map. In addition to providing a service to Maryland residents, the data generated by the map will be valuable for planning infrastructure expansion into currently underserved areas and for marketing broadband services.

Within the coming weeks, the Maryland Broadband Map will feature a Speed Test charting component that allows users to compare their Internet service speed against average speeds found in their ZIP Code and county. Along with responses to a 20-question survey, the data collected from the speed tests will help develop a picture of broadband availability and usage throughout Maryland, and ultimately help inform planning and investment in greater broadband coverage for all Marylanders.