

From Digital Campus to Connected Community -- The Story of Northeast Ohio's OneCommunity

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Abstract:

Universities and colleges around the world are using broadband switched networks, wireless, IP telephony, and other network solutions to enhance campus-based services and foster educational excellence. Less common are connected community network initiatives bound together by a collaborative fabric weaving together common vision and interest to help re-invent the future of the broader community within which Universities reside. Case Western Reserve University was the founding institutional leader and partner in what has become known as OneCommunity (formerly known as OneCleveland), a regional, non-profit organization dedicated to extending and expanding the reach of the broadband revolution in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio into government, education, social services, health care, research, arts, cultural, and other community service institutions. OneCleveland is improving lives and helping build a globally competitive regional economy. OneCleveland's regional ultra broadband network enables subscribers to deploy applications and services that change the way our community works, lives, learns and explores. These "community technologies" improve the public's access to vital information, resources and applications, plus they enable collaborations among institutions that otherwise would not be possible. Most important, the ultra broadband initiative has served as a platform inspiring collaboration and innovation among a network of community collaborators. This presentation explores the important role that universities can play in the strategic development of cities of the future.