



## **IRHN Scheduling Update**

September 20, 2011

The Illinois Rural HealthNet is now scheduling hospitals for connection to the statewide fiber backbone, with twenty signed up to date and discussions under way with ten additional. With data speeds of 100Mbps, and one Gigabit to many locations, files that used to take up to an hour to transmit will be sent in seconds. For hospitals that currently have a T1 circuit (1.5Mbps), a 100Mbps connection will be 67 times faster, and a 1 Gbps will be 667 times faster. As a result, health care providers will be able to meet new HIE and HIT requirements, treat more patients, consult with specialists while the patient is at the hospital, and send and receive radiological and digital imaging expeditiously, such as mammograms and C-scans.

### Pricing Reduction:

For those locations scheduled for 100Mbps connectivity, the IRHN has been able to reduce the cost from \$1000/month to \$750/month.

Schedule Capacity: Forty hospitals will be connected to the fiber backbone within a year, with capacity to add additional hospitals and clinics over the following year. Please contact Alan Kraus at [akraus@niu.edu](mailto:akraus@niu.edu) and copy Doug Power at [dpower@niu.edu](mailto:dpower@niu.edu) to discuss options for scheduling your location. If you have questions, please let us know, either by email or telephone. Alan is at 815-753-8945, and Doug is at 815-753-8947.

Network Implementation Update: Much of the backbone is now constructed and the carrier class Ciena network equipment is being installed. The Network Operations Center (NOC) is up and running and monitoring the network. The NOC provides 24x7x365 network management, monitoring, and maintenance, with two NOC locations to protect network continuity. The IRHN contracted with INOC, an experienced, world-class network operations company to provide this critical function.

The IRHN is a comprehensive network for hospital traffic, the Internet and Internet2, as well as connection to the commercial Internet at significantly reduced cost. For roughly the cost of two T1 circuits, hospitals will receive much faster service that fully meets the recommendations of the National Broadband Plan and the NIH. The IRHN looks



# Illinois Rural HealthNet

Improving health care through connectivity

forward to working with hospitals and clinics to improve access to health care in rural Illinois.