Economic development in the Information Age

A brief overview

Key goals

- Attract Information Economy businesses
- Develop a skilled workforce
- Create a diversified economic base
- Maintain a high quality of life
- Consensus-based vision for the community

Stimulate demand for services
- Community networks expand the marketplace
- Community networks help create a skilled workforce
- CNs help market the community to prospective businesses

Diversified strategy
- Most jobs created by existing small businesses
- Support for entrepreneurial startups
- Virtual business incubators create jobs

Internet-ready office space
- Pre-wired for the Internet
- Attention to amenities
- World class quality

Robust telecommunications infrastructure
- Modest public investment spurs private investment
- Create a level playing field in the marketplace
- Affordable broadband access from two or more suppliers

Four questions for communities

How does your region's economic development efforts support savvy entrepreneurs?

Are your local leaders using technology and are they supportive of technology investments?

Are you collaborating regionally with other communities on telecommunications projects?

Do you have a consensus-based process in place to build support for technology initiatives?

The Blacksburg Electronic Village is an outreach effort of Information Systems at Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech 1872

For more information on telecommunications and community networks, visit http://www.bev.net/project/digital_library/ or write to bev.info@bev.net.