



## Economic Development Success Stories

The Quilt and MIDnet are embarking on another joint project to promote further understanding of the country's RON's and the vital roles they play in the advanced networking capabilities to a region and/or state. For many RON's economic development is not a primary mission, but often it is a positive by-product of the presence of an advanced R&E network in a geographic area. This new joint project aims to collect economic development success stories of RONs and their participants. The goal of the project is to capture and publish these stories in a format that educates and promotes further investment, collaboration and cooperation in the networks.

We are looking for optical research and education network organizations that track or link economic development in their region and/or state to projects that would not have been possible without the network's optical infrastructure. Our goal is to document 6-10 economic development success stories, but we are also interested in higher education research projects and also K-12 uses of the networks that would not have been possible without the optical infrastructure deployed by the RON's. We anticipate the majority of these stories will be collected via telephone and will include topics such as: a general overview of the project, the principal players involved, resources required to implement, the role the network played, the economic/social impact, and the keys to success. Please see the reverse side for a general outline of interview questions.

These stories will then be compiled in a publication that will be made available to all RONs to use as 'marketing' pieces when speaking to legislators, governors, university administrators or any other interested parties. We are also interested in capturing a few of these stories on video for use in presentations or downloads from the web.

If you have an economic development or other success story to share, please contact us.

Project Principals:

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MIDnet, Inc., Exec. Director

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## Economic Development Sample Interview Questions

### Overview

- What is the history of the project?
- Who was involved?
- What startup funding was required?
- What were the internal incentives (how did you 'sell' the project)?
- What were the external incentives (were there grants, tax incentives, encouragement/engagement from local governments and/or community)?

### Required Resources

- What were the network requirements?
- What were the computing requirements, if any?
- What were the personnel requirements (number, knowledge, experience)?
- What is the operational funding requirement?
- Were there other requirements not mentioned above?

### How do you measure success?

- What are the goals or targets?
- What are the metrics you use? e.g., job creation, student and faculty recruitment and retention, return on optical infrastructure investment
- When do you expect to meet or exceed the goals?
- What is the current status?

### The Network's Role

- What role did the network play?
- Would the project been possible without an optical network?