

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TEXAS CONNECTS COALITION ANNOUNCES “BROADBAND ACROSS TEXAS WEEK”

Texans Are Invited to Learn. Click. Do.

HOUSTON – July 18, 2012 – Champions of digital equality and literacy, Texas Connects Coalition (TxC2), proclaims July 30 through August 3 to be “Broadband Across Texas Week.” A nonprofit partnership between Austin Free-Net (Austin) and Technology For All (Houston, San Antonio and rural Texas), TxC2 will have more than 80 computer labs participating in this celebratory week. Visitors to the public computer labs and classrooms will be professionally instructed in how to use a computer, navigate the Internet safely, search and apply for work. Guests also will learn how to download and manipulate digital images, place web-based calls to other users, such as military personnel, families abroad, and much more -- all free of charge. Daily events are scheduled to take place in Austin, Houston, San Antonio and throughout rural Texas.

“It is our continued goal to break down the barriers to digital inequality,” states Dr. Will Reed, president and CEO of coalition partner, Technology For All (TFA). “We connect Texans through basic computer education, Internet training and free public access to state-of-the-art computers and tablet technology. We help persons gain the knowledge, skills and abilities that they need to participate fully in the digital world and earn a livable wage.”

Recipients of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant in 2010, TxC2 works daily to decrease the digital divide through open-to-the-public computer labs and classrooms.

“We created ‘Broadband Across Texas Week’ as a tool of awareness. We encourage the public to come by one of our labs and see what we have to offer them, such as free computer classes which don’t require registration or documentation of any kind,” states Juanita Budd, executive director of Austin Free-Net. “Yes, we’re going to have prizes and refreshments and we’re having some fun with the week, but the message is serious. Our current and future workforce vitality depends on the digital equality and computer literacy of its employee pool. That’s our specialty and we’re proud to serve the Austin community and help get our friends and neighbors back to work through technology education.”

###

Texas Connects Coalition (TxC2) is a collaborative project between Technology For All and Austin Free-Net. TFA is the recipient and manager of a grant for the project from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. With local community relationships, TxC2 provides computer and Internet access, training and more for Texans with limited access to digital opportunities in the Austin, Houston, San Antonio, central Texas and Brazos Valley regions. Get more information at www.txc2.org, www.austinfreenet.net or www.techforall.org.

Media Contacts:

Austin Free-Net: Sheena Harden

Sheena.Harden@austinfreenet.net

(512) 236-8225 ext. 11

Technology For All: Katie McGranahan

Kathryn.McGranahan@techforall.org

(713) 454-6412