



### IBOP-EC Update



Representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) visited the Illinois Century Network (ICN) last week to conduct an onsite review of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The two-day site review included an analysis of ICN's fiscal and procurement processes, grant records, and implementation schedule. ICN and NTIA representatives travelled to Litchfield High School to observe construction activities that will extend the ICN fiber network to the school. NTIA had the opportunity to speak with Litchfield High School representatives Kurtis Land, Technology Director and Jennifer Thompson, Curriculum Director about the importance of and need for increased broadband speeds. NTIA also met with members of the construction crew from LTS Managed Technical Services. LTS is working on the I-55 Litchfield lateral which will extend the ICN fiber network to the high school. Overall, the site visit went well and provided ICN a terrific opportunity to showcase the project's benefits to the NTIA.

The construction crews are taking advantage of the mild winter. Crews have installed about thirteen of 1,000 miles of conduit along the Champaign to Kankakee to 95<sup>th</sup> Street routes. Construction on the Champaign to Bloomington, Champaign to Effingham, and Northern Illinois lateral routes are expected to start in the coming weeks. Construction vendors have been selected for all but two routes.

Come visit with ICN staff at the Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) Conference, 2/29 through 3/2, at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois.



The Illinois Century Network (ICN) staff has been working closely with our Advanced Engineering Task Force (AET) on an allocation model to replace the current cost recovery model for our Education, Library and Museum constituents.

The new model will go into effect once the new fiber network is up and running. The Policy Committee has asked for constituent feedback prior to final approval and implementation. ICN staff will be contacting you with further details on how you may participate in this effort.



**Photos to the right & left:**  
LTS Managed Technical Services construction crew begin work on the I-55 lateral connection near Litchfield High School



**Photo below:**  
Representatives from ICN, LTS, NTIA, and Litchfield High School

