



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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*for immediate release*

## **UVI To Connect to Internet2**

The University of the Virgin Islands has announced that it will connect to Internet2, a leading-edge networking environment that supports high-performance applications utilized by more than 200 universities nationwide.

Internet2 is the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. By bringing research and academia together with technology leaders from industry, government and the international community, Internet2 promotes collaboration and innovation that has a fundamental impact on the future of the Internet.

The implementation of Internet2 at UVI will increase the University's connectivity by 15 times its current rate. The Internet2 implementation is made possible through a contribution from Global Crossing, the sponsorship of Florida International University's AMPATH project, and the UVI Research and Technology Park Corporation (RTPark) which is providing material technical assistance, access to collocation facilities, and other shared resources. AMPATH is the international exchange point in Miami for research and education networks that will connect UVI to Internet2.

UVI's Chief Information Officer Tina Koopmans said UVI's connection to the Global Crossing "pipe" will allow faster access to a number of electronic resources and teaching and learning technologies. Internet2 will improve UVI's videoconferencing capability, Internet access, as well as access to educational, medical and other research data compiled in more than 86 countries.

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RTPark Executive Director David M. Zumwalt added, “Economic development goes hand in hand with workforce development, and by joining Internet2 UVI is demonstrating that it is willing and ready to lead in leveraging technology in education. That’s a key cornerstone for UVI’s future and for RTPark’s mission to encourage economic development in the territory, and we are delighted to be partnering with UVI to help make Internet2 a reality.”

“It’s a tremendous step for the University,” UVI President Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster said. “Through Internet2, the University of the Virgin Islands will be on the leading edge of technology, utilizing data and resources to which a very select group of researchers and academicians have access. Internet2 will provide the capacity and the opportunity for research and teaching that surpasses our current capacity.”

The proposal to introduce Internet2 as a part of the University of the Virgin Islands’ technical infrastructure received input from faculty and staff. The decision made by the president took into consideration the need for a long term approach to planning and providing the University with sufficient options to take advantage of opportunities for research and teaching at the highest level.

UVI’s Internet2 connection is expected to begin on UVI’s St. Croix campus in July. Full connectivity to the St. Thomas campus is expected by the Fall of 2007. For further information about UVI’s connection to the Internet2 network, please contact UVI Chief Information Officer Tina Koopmans at (340) 693-1540 or by e-mail at [tkoopma@uvi.edu](mailto:tkoopma@uvi.edu).

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