



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

TOM CROSBY
Supervisor
District 1

RICHARD G. KARWACZKA
County Administrator

ANN ENGLISH
Chairman
District 2

SHARON GILMAN
Associate County Administrator

PEGGY JUDD
Vice-Chairman
District 3

KIM LEMONS
Clerk of the Board

October 26, 2021

Laura Yvette Franco, Regional Manager
University of Arizona Distance Network
4190 W. Highway 80
Douglas, AZ 85607

Dear Ms. Franco and UA Distance Network partners,

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors is proud to expand our relationship with the University of Arizona by offering classroom space in our historic Douglas Regional Service Center for your exciting new project, Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program. Recognizing the importance of this project to our community, we fully support your efforts, including the application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Expanding educational opportunities through direct access to distance learning technology in Douglas will help move our economy forward. This is a primary goal of the Board's Strategic Plan. Low educational attainment among residents age 18-24 is one factor impacting our capacity to attract businesses seeking a talented workforce. According to American Community Survey data, in this age group, nearly four times as many individuals have not graduated high school (16.2%) as have attained a bachelor's degree (4.4%).

Our Douglas Service Center's downtown location is within walking distance of the Raul E. Castro International Port of Entry and residential neighborhoods. The building offers many essential services to children and families. This location is an ideal place for The University of Arizona Distance Network to promote and provide access to advanced education. Your goal to address the perceived barriers of awareness, opportunity, and achievement is key to increasing bachelor's degree attainment for future STEM leaders. The economic future of southeastern Arizona, and particularly the border community of Douglas, will depend upon our successful development and retention of these leaders.

Cochise County has successfully worked with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to address the changing needs of our constituents over the years. We value this longstanding partnership and are excited to provide a physical home in our Douglas Service Center for Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Tom Crosby
Supervisor, District 1

Ann English
Chairman, District 2

Peggy Judd
Vice-Chairman, District 3

1415 Melody Lane, Building G
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9200
520-432-5016 fax
board@cochise.az.gov