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**Urbana-Champaign Smart Gigabit Community**

**Chieh-Li “Julian” Chin, Research Manager at iSchool, and Tech Leader**

**Tracy Smith, Director of Research IT at U of I, Principal Investigator of Steering Group:**

**Team**

- Martin Wolske, Senior Research Scientist at iSchool
- Sharon Irish, Project Coordinator at iSchool
- Lisa Bievenue, Assistant Director of Illinois Informatics Institute
- Center for Digital Inclusion at iSchool, Dean and Professor at the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University
- Founding Principal Investigator: Dr. Jon Gant, Founding Director of the Center for Digital Inclusion at School, Dean and Professor at the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University

**IMPROVE DIGITAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL EQUITY**

**Digital Inclusion** refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies.

**Digital Equity** is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy.

**Motivation**

- Develop short and long-term research and operational strategies for the advancement of the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) digital infrastructure
- Support community-wide network for research, development and demonstration (RD&D) of smart community and next-generation innovative applications that enhance robust digital learning, solve socio-technical challenges, and improve digital inclusion and digital equity in our community

**Approach**

- Build strategic relationships with local government, civic leaders, and community anchor institutions to identify socio-technical issues in our community
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary research teams in the University to develop research projects and advanced socio-technical solutions
- Partner with US Ignite to serve as one of the dozens national gigabit applications test-bed communities and connect with other smart gigabit communities

**Results**

- Foster design and development of gigabit applications projects focused on Health Care, Public Safety, and Education
- Initiate smart community ecosystem through community activities, e.g. CU hack night event, Reverse Pitch Challenge

**Impacts and Future Work**

- Enhance awareness of socio-technical opportunities, challenges, and strategies for smart community
- Encourage more researchers and developers to work on smart applications that can solve socio-technical issues
- Engage with community stakeholders further to build digitally inclusive communities

**References**


**Acknowledgments**

This material is based upon work supported by US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities program, funded by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsors.