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**NATOA Names the Prince George's County
Fiber Optic Institutional Network its
2008 Community Broadband Network of the Year**

Atlanta, GA – September 18, 2008 – The NATOA Board of Directors is proud to announce that it has awarded the 2008 Community Broadband Network of the Year award to the **Prince George's County, Maryland fiber optic Institutional Network (I-Net)**. The network received the prestigious award in honor of its accomplishments connecting the County, more than 20 municipalities, numerous schools, and first responders over fiber optics; for serving government and educational needs over the network; and for demonstrating how communications technology can enhance government services, save on government expenditures, and save energy.

Developed by a partnership of the County and numerous municipalities, the Prince George's County I-Net is an exemplary partnership among public entities to meet public safety, educational, e-government, and public health needs. The network is creating cost savings for County and municipal agencies. For example, by offering voice communications services over the network, the County will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in phone line and service expenses.

"NATOA applauds Prince George's County, its municipalities, and all the stakeholders for planning and building this impressive network," said NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty. "It is a wonderful example of how local governments are working to protect public health and safety, enhance emergency communications, and facilitate education through I-Nets and other communications infrastructure."

The 2008 NATOA Community Broadband Awards were awarded to six exceptional leaders and organizations in government, business, and the community who champion community interests in broadband deployment and work to ensure that more Americans can experience the benefits of this important technology.

For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA's efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit www.natoa.org or contact NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at the number above.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.