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PENCE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BALL STATE

Washington, Dec 9, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives secured $600,000 in funding for Ball State University's Digital Middletown Project.

"This legislation will support the innovative leadership of Ball State University," said Pence. "What's good for Ball State in this case will especially be good for the economic development of Muncie. I would like to commend officials at Ball State and community leaders who have worked diligently to advance the vision of Digital Middletown."

The Digital Middletown Project will employ newly developed advanced wireless technology to make high bandwidth telecommunications available to all residents of the city. The capacity of this system will far exceed commonly available cable or DSL broadband service.

Ball State researchers will utilize this community-wide telecommunications system to experiment with new interactive media and learning techniques. Through this system, local schools, parents, youth groups, philanthropic organizations and others will participate in an ongoing experiment. Educational media will be developed and tested and new ways of learning will be identified and evaluated.

The funding was included as part of the FY 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report. It is expected to pass the Senate and be signed by President Bush.

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