



MESCALERO *Apache* TRIBE
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

August 28, 2013

Director
Advanced Services Division
Room 2844
Mail Stop 1550
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1550

RE: RDUP-13-01-PTV (Public TV Digital Transition Grant Program)

Dear Director:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the grant application submitted by KENW-TV of EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY. This project helps to address the critical need in the MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE to advance educational goals and provide access to critical public announcements.

The MESCALERO APACHE tribal members have limited access to telecommunication and public broadcasting services. For example, more than fifty percent of the residences on the Tribe's land, which encompasses approximately 463,000 acres, are without basic telephone service and none have access to digital over-the-air programs. Enhancing tribal communities' access to PBS programs increases tribal communities' access to education, noncommercial, government, and public services. By helping to bridge the communication gap between those living on the Tribe's land and the emergency and educational services will help improve the MESCALERO APACHE community's standard of living.

We respectfully encourage you to approve KENW-TV's grant application. Approving it would be consistent with the federal government's obligations under the historic trust relationship with federally-recognized Indian tribes to encourage tribal sovereignty and self-governance and to ensure a standard of livability for members of Indian tribes on tribal lands. Should you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Arslan Umarov via email at au@jdw-law.com or (575) 437-5750.

Very truly yours,

Sandra Platero
President