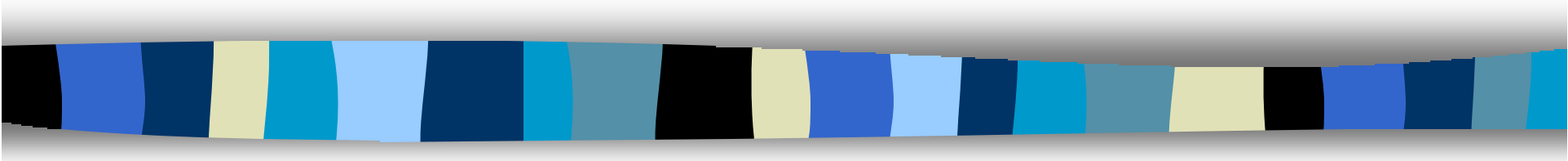


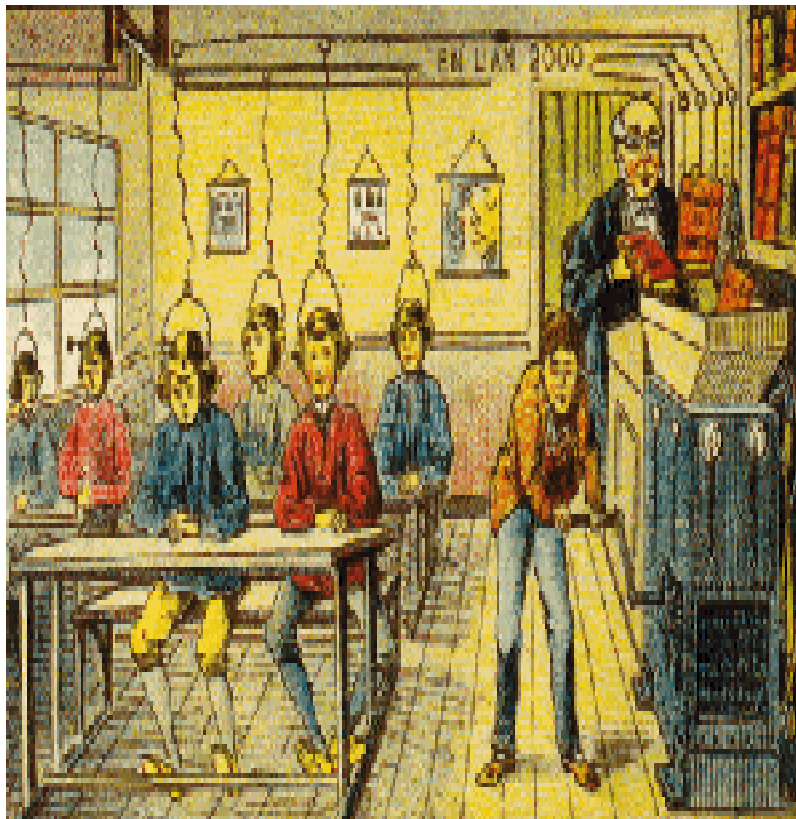
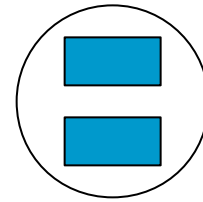
# National Urban League



## **Towards Bridging the Digital Divide: *“Challenges and Solutions to Access for All”***

By B. Keith Fulton for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies -- “Resolving the Digital Divide: Information, Access and Opportunity” Public Policy Forum - at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington, DC), October, 19th 1999.

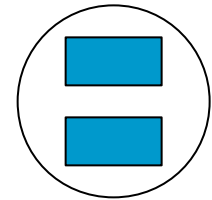
# Presentation Overview



- The Problem
- Implications
- A New Metaphor
- Community  
Technology
- Sustaining the Work  
(Programs & Policy)
- Q&A

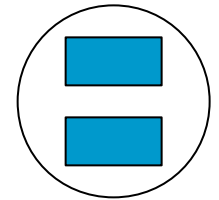


# The Problem



- **The Problem:** proliferation of information and technology “have-nots” because of unequal access to telecommunications network technologies, telephones, computers and other customer equipment that may be attached to networks.
- Institutions risk marginality and the problem will be exacerbated if anchor institutions like HBCUs and CBOs are slow to integrate information and communications technology into their infrastructures and program strategies.

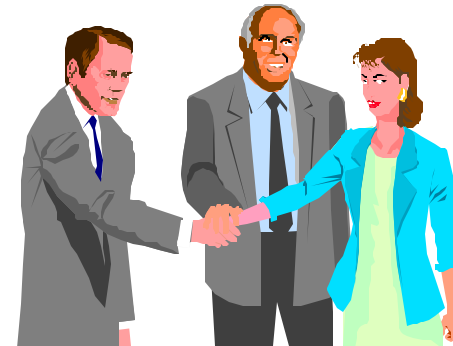
# Implications of the Divide



- Education



- Jobs

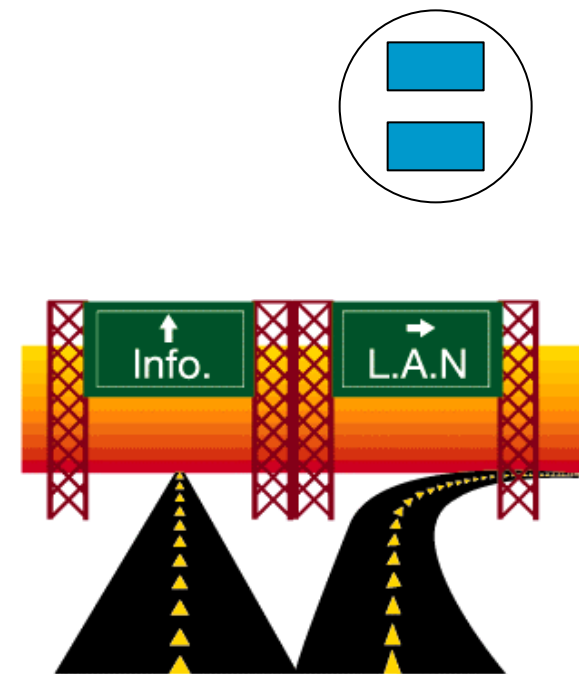


- Opportunity

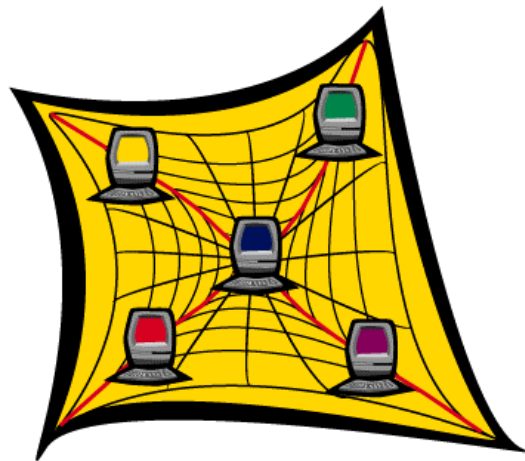


# A New Metaphor

- Information Highway



- Information Nervous System





# History: Community Technology

- IBM Centers Put In Place (1968)
- 10-12 Week training in COBOL, mainframe upkeep, data entry, and keyboarding.
- Focus on workforce development and adult learners.
- 32 Centers in place by 1991 and migration to PC platform.



# Lessons Learned Over 30 Years

- Meaningful Technology Integration requires 5 key elements:
  - **vision** - decide what you want to do
  - **infrastructure** - hardware & wires
  - **innovative content & curriculum**
  - **professional development & upkeep**
  - **evaluation**
- All elements should be built into your program design.



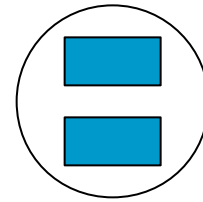
# Present Day: Tech Ed. & Access

- Bell Atlantic Grant (1996, 1999)
- Ameritech Foundation (1999)
- TIIAP Award (1997)
- Microsoft “Leadership Award” (1997)
- PC Platform with Internet access
- Networked across geographies, with “adaptive curriculum” for children and adults.
- Building a “Digital Campus”



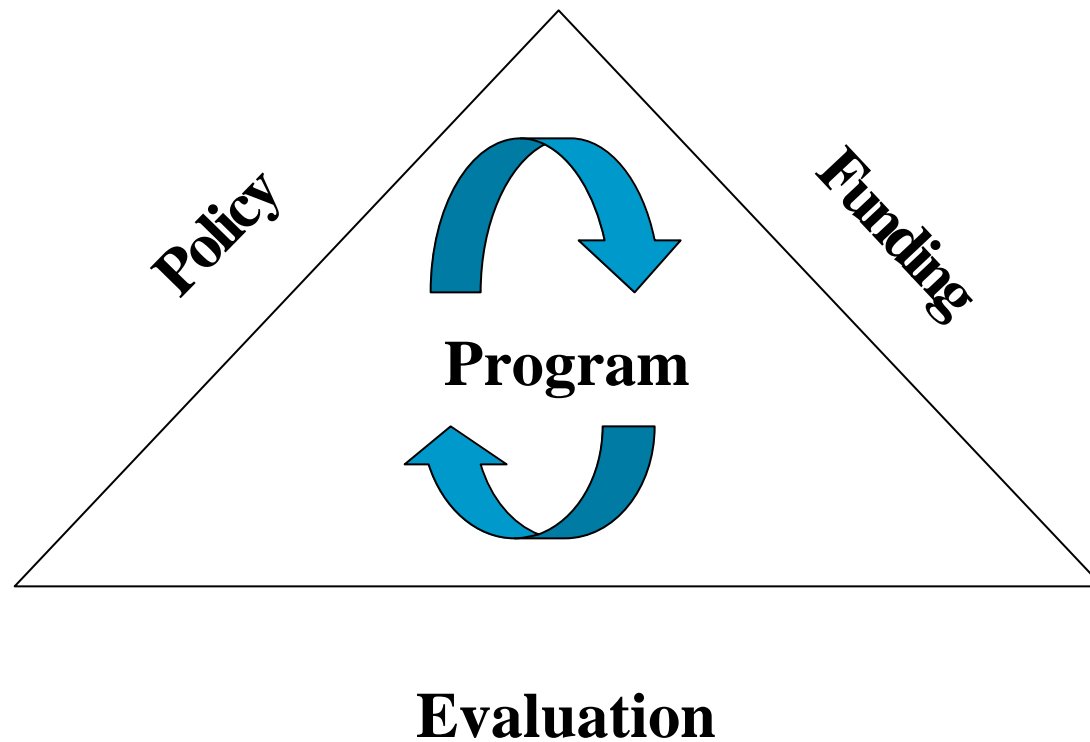
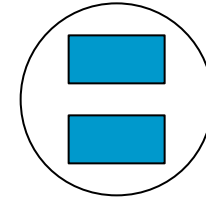


## End Result: 114 TEACs



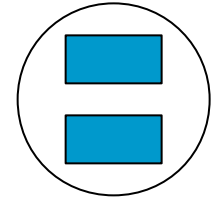
- Our efforts should yield 114 advanced Technology Education and Access Centers (TEACs) by the year 2006.
- The TEACs will be safe places in the community for children and caring adults to access information and communications technology.

# Sustaining the Work

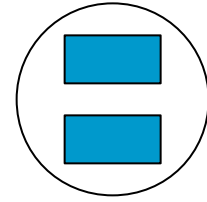




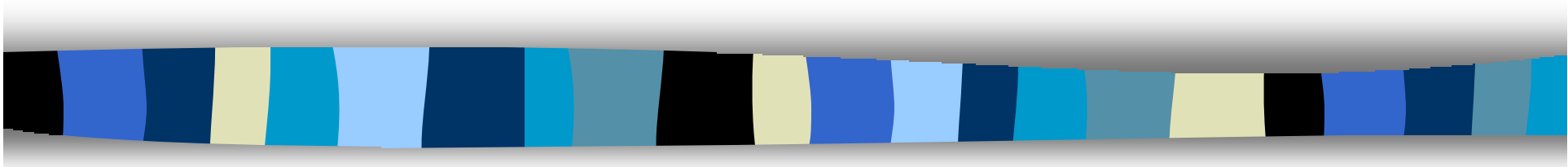
# Closing the Divide . . . .



- **Resources:** closing the divide requires the thoughtful investment of financial resources, in-kind resources and expertise.
- **Research:** Evaluation of existing programs and interventions will inform and direct future investments.
- **Leadership:** Organizations with know-how must use their convening power and influence to compel other players to invest new resources and to leverage existing resources.



Thank You for your time



National Urban League Online

**[www.nul.org](http://www.nul.org)**

or

keyword **“urban league”** on AOL

# About the Presenter



- B. Keith Fulton is the Director of Technology Programs & Policy for the National Urban League. The mission of Keith's work is to bring the benefits of information and communications technology to underserved communities. The National Urban League has been operating technology-based programs in low-income communities since 1968.
- Keith earned his B.A. from VA Tech in Urban Affairs & Planning with two years of Computer Engineering and a minor in Sociology; a Professional Certificate in Management and Policy Analysis from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; a M.S. in Management and Policy Analysis from the New School University, Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy; and his J.D. from New York Law School with a focus on intellectual property, electronic commerce, and telecommunications law.
- You can contact Keith at 212-558-5394 or via e-mail at [bkfulton@nul.org](mailto:bkfulton@nul.org).