



## **ERC Selects Skyrunner As Recipient of RFP for Haywood County Broadband Expansion**

Asheville, N.C. (April 15, 2021) – The Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc (“ERC”, also known as “ERC Broadband”) is proud to announce it has selected Skyrunner as the awardee of its Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to expand broadband in the Fines Creek and Crabtree communities in Haywood County. This award is pursuant to funding received by the Appalachian Regional Commission (“ARC”).

Skyrunner’s President, J.J. Boyd said, “we are happy to be working with the ERC to provide meaningful broadband internet access to Haywood County while helping to close the digital divide within Haywood County communities.”

The creation and evaluation of the RFP was done in partnership with the Southwestern Commission Council of Governments and Haywood County. “The Haywood County Broadband Committee worked closely with the ERC and the Fines Creek and Crabtree communities to identify unserved and underserved households and businesses, and helped write and evaluate the RFP. This project will provide broadband access to several hundred customers and will help to spur economic activity and growth in Haywood County,” said Deborah Porto, Chair of the Broadband Committee.

The ERC has been a long-serving broadband and technology advocate for western North Carolina. “This award is a great testament to the ERC’s ability to partner with groups across western North Carolina to support rural access to adequate broadband,” said Hunter Goosmann, Executive Director and CEO of the ERC. “And we are proud to continue our long partnership with Skyrunner.”

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## **About ERC**

The nonprofit Education & Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, Inc. (ERC) is an award winning middle mile network and data center that serves western North Carolina by providing broadband Internet access and network services to our customers. Based in Asheville, the ERC network spans from Franklin to Sparta, serving four primary groups: Education, Healthcare, Government Services, and Economic Development. The ERC team also serves as technology advocates for the region.

In addition, the ERC is also a partner to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA), the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), and the National Weather Service (NWS) by being a top tier provider of NEXRAD Level II and III weather data for the country as well as by supporting NCEI as a wide-area networking partner.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ercwnc.org>.

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## **About Skyrunner**

Skyrunner, Inc. is a North Carolina corporation headquartered in Asheville, NC. Founded in 2004, as Skyrunner, Inc., we are pioneers in the deployment of fixed wireless network technologies, installing some of the first wide area wireless Internet links in the Southeast.

Skyrunner now serves thousands of customers in 18 counties in Western NC and upstate SC and the team's terrestrial wireless expertise is nationally recognized. We have consulted with other ISPs all across the country on radio deployment, router management, and network design. We believe the proof of our technical prowess is our low customer turnover and our frequent accolades on social media.

In addition to being wireless experts, Skyrunner is also an experienced fiber optic broadband provider. We began our first fiber-to-the-premises (FTTx) deployment in 2015 to a 100 home development in East Asheville. Since then, Skyrunner has installed both fiber optic and hybrid fiber/wireless networks in many communities across Western North Carolina, including a 435 home development in Yancey County and a large retirement community in Asheville.

Skyrunner continues to grow rapidly in size and recognition through the deployment of the newest cutting-edge technologies. Team Skyrunner strives to provide the highest quality customer service for our customers delivering the highest level of user experience all the way to the end user device.

Skyrunner looks forward to the opportunity of bringing the Fines Creek and Crabtree communities of Haywood County premier broadband access!

To learn more about Skyrunner Internet, please visit [www.skyrunner.net](http://www.skyrunner.net).

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