



For Immediate Release

## **MVCC and MVECA to Merge, Form New Technology Council**

*New organization will expand access for school districts and local governments to technology and communications services across the Miami Valley*

Two longtime regional leaders in technology and communications services are joining forces to strengthen and expand service delivery across southwest Ohio. The Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) and the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association (MVECA) have announced plans to merge under a new umbrella organization: the **Miami Valley Technology and Communications Group (MVTCG)**.

The newly formed Council of Governments (COG) will combine the assets, personnel and operations of MVCC and MVECA to create a more sustainable and efficient organization that enhances the affordability, reliability and security of networks and technology implementations as well as providing communication strategies and opportunities under a single organizational umbrella. MVTCG will be headquartered at MVECA's Yellow Springs facility and governed by a five-member board composed of appointees from each organization.

MVCC will continue to provide all current services — such as video production for public meetings, creation of visual media, electric and natural gas aggregation, joint purchasing, employee and elected official training, regional policing through the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit (TCSU) and fiber infrastructure support — with no disruption to existing members or communities.

"This is a strategic move to preserve and strengthen efficient and effectively managed regional services that member and affiliate communities have relied on for decades," MVCC Executive Director Jay Weiskircher said. "We are preserving the services our members value while opening the door for growth and innovation."

MVCC was created in 1975 to manage cable franchise agreements and over the past 50 years has evolved to offer a wide range of intergovernmental services. MVCC is a recognized leader in collaborative public sector initiatives and services in the Miami Valley.

MVECA, a state-licensed Information Technology Center, delivers an ever-expanding variety of essential services to schools and local governments including internet access, network and cybersecurity support, hosting services, managed phone and wireless services, software hosting, application training, hardware procurement, and fiber-optic infrastructure development and support. MVECA is also a service provider in the federal E-Rate program. Over the last ten years, MVECA's annual operating budget has increased

by over 300 percent as the organization has worked to address the growing technology needs of public sector entities in the Miami Valley. Merging the two organizations positions the region for long-term success.

“The formation of MVTCG will increase access to affordable, secure and high-quality technology and communication services throughout the Miami Valley. We are excited to combine our strengths and build an organization ready for the future. Together, our organizations represent 178 member and affiliates in 8 counties that include local municipal and county governments, public/community charter and private schools, educational services centers and career and technology centers,” MVECA Executive Director Thor Sage said.

The merger reflects a shared commitment to collaboration, innovation and financial stewardship. It also supports local strategic goals to modernize service delivery and expand access to IT resources for both internal and external customers. Together, MVCC and MVECA have more than 150 miles of fiber and conduit infrastructure throughout southwest Ohio. These assets are available for sale or use by both public and private sector organizations.

The governing boards of both MVECA and MVCC recently approved the merger and MVTCG is expected to begin operating later this year.