



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Carolina Community Broadband Alliance Brings Internet to Sunshine**

**BOSTIC, N.C. / October 2, 2021** - Carolina Community Broadband Alliance (CCBA) announced today the construction of a fixed wireless broadband site in partnership with Sunshine Elementary, Rutherford County Schools, Dogwood Health Trust, and PANGAEA Internet (PANGAEA). The tower signal will reach many homes near Sunshine Elementary School, an area currently underserved by internet service providers.

The effort, which will enable broadband access to homes beginning in October, is the result of many groups working together for the benefit of the community. Responding to a call for help from Sunshine area residents, CCBA worked with Rutherford County Schools administration and board officials to develop a partnership for land use and obtained a grant from Dogwood Health Trust for a 100-foot monopole and broadband distribution equipment. PANGAEA Internet will provide a dedicated fiber connection and bandwidth that will serve the tower.

"Improving the communities we serve is always our primary focus and we are thrilled that we can help the residents near Sunshine Elementary School," said Ron Walters, Executive Director of PANGAEA and CCBA, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

"Broadband is critical for helping students and families connect to a wide range of resources, not only for education, but also to access health care services or to grow a business. We are pleased to join with Rutherford County partners to help make those connections," said Dr. Susan Mims, Interim CEO of Dogwood Health Trust.

Principal Neil Higgins expressed his appreciation in a statement from the school: "The Sunshine faculty, staff, students, and community would like to thank CCBA for helping us connect to our surrounding communities and others around the world! We appreciate the hard work and dedication and extend our thanks."

**Carolina Community Broadband Alliance** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to expanding educational and economic opportunity by increasing access to affordable and fast internet in rural communities. The work of CCBA includes stimulating community involvement and participation in data collection efforts, identifying clusters of need, and facilitating fundraising efforts to cover initial capital expenditures to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved communities in Polk and Rutherford counties. Residents without home internet access and all who want to learn more about CCBA are encouraged to visit [www.CarolinaCBA.com](http://www.CarolinaCBA.com) for more information.