Foreword

This book is a welcome addition to the literature in the area of community networks. As its title indicates, the book addresses important social and economic factors related to the development and expansion of community wireless networks. Studying these factors is important for the development of new technologies, formulation of new policies, and education of the public.

The first chapter gives an introduction to Community Wireless Networks and provides an overview of the literature. The second chapter discusses challenges facing Municipal Wireless Networks in the U.S.A. The remaining chapters cover a wide range of related topics including social and economic impact, best practices, policies, implementation models, financial issues, success factors, and lessons learned from key projects all over the world. The chapters discuss projects from different countries including Nepal, Uganda, India, Canada, Brazil, European Union, the Czech Republic, and New Zealand.

I highly recommend this book for those seeking an introduction to the many issues related to Community Wireless Networks and their social and economic factors.

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Hesham El-Rewini is the Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines at the University of North Dakota. He is the coauthor of five books. His first book with Ted Lewis in 1992 was among the very early books written in the area of Parallel Computing and was widely adopted by universities all over the world. His two latest books in computer architecture have been translated to Chinese. Dr. El-Rewini has supervised the research of many MS and PhD students. His research interests include the areas of parallel processing, energy-aware computer architecture, and scheduling techniques. His research has resulted in numerous publications in journals and conference proceedings. His research projects have been funded by grants from industry and federal agencies. Dr. El-Rewini was the Principal Investigator of a number of international projects funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Higher Education for Development (HED) to establish partnerships with and offer academic training programs to universities in Mexico and the Middle East. Dr. El-Rewini is the former Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Southern Methodist University (SMU) from 2001 to 2008. He is a registered engineer in the state of Texas.