



Governor Branstad Recognizes Grinnell as Certified Connected Community

Grinnell completes technology plan aimed at bridging technology gap, boosting economy, paving way for improved quality of life

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[View the technology action plan](#)

Grinnell, IA – Today, Governor Branstad, legislative leaders, and local officials joined Connect Iowa to recognize Grinnell for becoming a Certified Connected Community and releasing its technology action plan.

“Iowa communities continue to lead the way to improve access, adoption, and use of broadband technology,” said Gov. Branstad. “Lt. Gov. Reynolds and I congratulate Grinnell for being recognized as a Certified Connected Community. Grinnell has taken important and essential steps to move Iowa forward, improving both economic development opportunities and quality of life for Iowans. I encourage all Iowa communities to complete the Connected Community Certification process presented by Connect Iowa and keep the momentum going.”

The City of Grinnell Broadband Committee has been working since July 2014 with Connect Iowa on the [Connected Community Engagement Program](#). This initiative assesses the local broadband landscape, identifies connectivity gaps, and establishes technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the community. The City of Grinnell met the requirements necessary to achieve the Certified Connected Community status.

“The Connected Community Certification is an honor for Grinnell and a great recognition of where we are at in terms of broadband-based services, but it’s just the first step in a larger process,” said Monique Shore, local champion and systems administrator at Drake Community Library. “It brought together business and educational leaders to start an important conversation about broadband services. The information gathered as part of the assessment process was very interesting and insightful and will provide a solid foundation as we move forward in

planning for improvements.”

“Congratulations to the City of Grinnell for its Certified Connected Community distinction,” said Tom Ferree, Connected Nation president and COO. “The community and its leaders are committed to broadband technology and to improving its already strong broadband status. Connect Iowa and Connected Nation applaud their diligence to continue improving technology access to its citizens, businesses, and organizations.”

For more information about the project or to join a Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org.

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About Connect Iowa: Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: www.connectiowa.org.

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Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected certified communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>