



# Governor Branstad Recognizes Manning as Certified Connected Community

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

**Media Contact:** Sarah Synovec  
[ssynovec@connectiowa.org](mailto:ssynovec@connectiowa.org)  
(515) 421-3326

**For Immediate Release**  
January 8, 2015

## [View the technology action plan](#)

**Des Moines, IA** – Today, Governor Branstad, legislative leaders, and local officials joined Connect Iowa to recognize the City of Manning for becoming a certified Connected community and releasing its technology action plan. Manning is the first community of less than 5,000 people to become certified in Iowa.

“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 Manning for being recognized as a certified Connected community. Manning 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 Manning Broadband Committee has been working since April 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 Manning met the requirements necessary to achieve the certified Connected community status.

“Connect Iowa and Connected Nation join Gov. Branstad in congratulating the City of Manning on its distinction as a certified Connected community,” said Tom Ferree, Connected Nation president and COO. “The City of Manning Broadband Team, representing all sectors of the community, is committed to improving broadband access, adoption, and use for all residents, businesses, and organizations for the years to come.”

"The City of Manning is honored to receive this important distinction as a Connected community," said Ron Reischl, Manning local champion and Main Street Manning Board President. "The Connected community certification and the recognition of Governor Branstad reiterate what we have long known - Manning is a great place to live and conduct business. This will be added to our economic development tool kit and will complement our recent \$1 million investment in downtown revitalization. The Manning Broadband Committee is especially proud of Manning being recognized as the first Iowa community under 5,000 to achieve the certification."

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

# # #

**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](http://www.connectiowa.org).

Follow **Connect Iowa** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



**CONNECTED**<sup>SM</sup> 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>