



Grinnell Begins Technology Planning Effort

Grinnell enlists in Connect Iowa's Connected program to bridge technology gap, boost economy, pave way for improved quality of life

Media Contact: Jessica Ditto
jditto@connectednation.org
(202) 251-4749

For Immediate Release
September 15, 2014

Grinnell, IA – Grinnell community leaders joined for a kickoff meeting to become a part of Connect Iowa's [Connected Community Engagement Program](#), seeking to boost the local economy and quality of life for residents through increased access, adoption, and use of broadband.

The meeting took place on September 11 at the Drake Community Library in Grinnell. Attendees included representatives from a variety of sectors including area businesses and non-profit organizations, education, and economic development.

"Working toward the Connected Community Technology Action Plan is a step in the right direction for the future of Grinnell," said Monique Shore, Grinnell community champion. "The plan will help us outline specific steps to ensure our community is supporting our current residents and businesses by making sure there is access to the global economy and all the educational, health, government, and other countless benefits that quality, high-speed Internet allows."

The Connected Community Engagement Program facilitates assessments of local broadband access, adoption, and use. The goal of the program is to help develop strategies to better harness the power of technology in order to stimulate local economic growth. The Connected program seeks to increase the number of high-tech companies and jobs, ensure that schools have sufficient access to broadband, and maximize technology options for healthcare, libraries, local government, and citizens.

For more information about the project or to join the Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org, or Connect Iowa Program Manager Amy Kuhlert at (515) 421-2561.

Shore can be reached at 641-236-2661 or by email at monique@grinnelliowa.gov.

Grinnell will begin the assessment process immediately and hopes to have the process completed by October 30.

###

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.

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



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>