



Connect Iowa Releases Report on Boosting Education Through Broadband

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Report finds Iowa lagging in usage of Internet for education

Des Moines, IA – Today, Connect Iowa is releasing a new report focusing on the growing role broadband is playing in improving education across the state. The report, [Broadband: Boosting Education in Iowa](#), reveals the growing importance of the Internet in connecting Iowans to vital education resources.

With [6.1 million college students](#) nationwide taking at least one online course during the fall of 2010 and an estimated [1.1 million jobs in Iowa](#) requiring some education or training beyond high school by 2018, the importance of e-learning to Iowa's future prosperity becomes clear.

Here are some highlights of the report:

- 41% of Iowans with Internet access utilize e-learning, significantly lower than the Connected Nation average of 44%.
- 37% of Iowa e-learners are rural, while 63% live in urban or suburban households.
- Nearly four out of five (79%) Iowans who are e-learners are employed adults.
- 45% of adult e-learners are between the ages of 18 and 34, while another 45% are age 35 to 54.
- Over one-half of Iowa e-learners (51%) have a high school diploma or have attended some college, and an additional 45% have a college or advanced degree.

"This report makes it clear that broadband is a significant piece of Iowa's education puzzle," said Connect Iowa Program Manager Amy Kuhlers. "High-speed Internet offers Iowans infinite educational opportunities now and for the future. The Connect Iowa initiative is actively working with communities across the state to ensure that broadband access, adoption, and use is expanded so that all our residents have the benefits of e-learning and other services that high-speed Internet provides."

Anyone with an interest in bringing better broadband to local homes and businesses is encouraged to join in the Connect Iowa community planning effort. For more information on how to get involved, please contact Amy Kuhlers at akuhlers@connectednation.org or (515) 421-2561.

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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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