



Iowa's First Broadband Summit Makes Big Impact on Leaders Ready to Empower Communities

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

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Jeremy Thacker
jthacker@connectednation.org
(615) 521-5905

First Iowa Broadband Summit Sets Stage for Vital Statewide Expansion of Internet Access, Adoption, and Use

Des Moines, IA – State leaders are now armed with new tools and connections that will help put broadband expansion plans into motion across Iowa. The state's first-ever Broadband Summit: Empowering Communities drew more than a hundred attendees to the Iowa State Historical Building Tuesday, where they focused on education, job creation, and the economic development that comes from expanding broadband access, adoption, and use across the state.

Several speakers were on hand for the event including Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority Debi Durham, author and American Rural CEO Diane Smith, and Connected Nation Chief Policy Counsel Tom Koutsky. Several other regional leaders and experts led three different interactive panels focusing on Community Planning, Broadband Access Providers, and Using Broadband for Economic Growth.

"The Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for Iowa's technology leaders and economic development champions to come together to learn from each other,

pull resources, and set new goals for both broadband expansion and the improved education of all Iowans,” said Connect Iowa State Program Manager Amy Kuhlers. “Quite simply, high-speed Internet offers Iowans limitless opportunities for the future and this Summit is where the groundwork for all that begins.”

The event was co-hosted by [Connect Iowa](#) in collaboration with the [Iowa Economic Development Authority](#). Those who could not attend the Summit were able to follow the conversation on [Twitter](#) via hash tag #IABroadband. Photo highlights, presenter slides, and other Summit materials can be found in the [Summit section](#) of the Connect Iowa website.

The Connect Iowa website serves as the central distribution center for free resources and information on Iowa broadband access, adoption, and use. Online speed tests, interactive broadband maps, current research, and more are all available. For more information on Connect Iowa’s many local programs, please contact Kuhlers at (515) 421-2561 or akuhlers@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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