



Connect Iowa Applauds Branstad Administration's Commitment to Connect Every Iowan in Condition of State Address

Broadband Remains a Top Policy Priority

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Des Moines, IA – Connect Iowa applauds Gov. Terry Branstad's commitment to make broadband a policy priority in the 2015 legislative session. In today's Condition of the State address, Branstad reinforced the state's efforts to pass comprehensive broadband legislation and support communities that will promote greater broadband access, adoption, and use across the state.

Connect Iowa worked with the Governor's Connect Every Iowan initiative to fast-track Iowa's goal of becoming the most connected state in the Midwest. Since the Governor made that pledge, more than 61 communities have joined the Connect Iowa Connected community engagement program and 19 have completed technology action plans. On Thursday, Governor Branstad and Iowa Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds will be in Story County to recognize the county's achievement in becoming the 12th Certified Connected Community in Iowa.

"Governor Branstad is one of most active governors in the country on broadband policy," said Connected Nation President Tom Ferree. "The Governor and his Administration are aggressively working to ensure that every acre of Iowa is connected and capable of delivering the broadband service Iowa's households and businesses need to innovate, create jobs, and improve education and healthcare."

The Iowa STEM Advisory Council's Broadband Committee is crafting 2015 policy recommendations to be sent the Governor's Office for consideration. Connect Iowa has provided broadband insights from its work in communities and data from its surveys and maps to support the Committee's assessment of the current levels of broadband access, adoption, and use across the state.

Connect Iowa has shown that expanding broadband is a vital component of economic development. High-speed Internet access is essential for education, healthcare, and business. According to Connect Iowa's October 2014 broadband mapping analysis, slightly more than 80% of Iowa households have access to the FCC's national target of fixed broadband at speeds of at least 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload.

Tomorrow, President Obama will travel to Iowa to highlight the achievements of Cedar Falls in connecting community anchor institutions and residents to an ultra high-speed network. Cedar Falls is located in Black Hawk County (a Certified Connected Community) and is one of nine 1 GB communities in the state. For more information on Internet access across Iowa visit: <http://www.connectiowa.org/broadband-landscape>.

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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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