



President Obama Visits Iowa Certified Connected Community

Cedar Falls Hosts Announcement of Broadband Access Initiative

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Cedar Falls, IA - President Obama visited Cedar Falls, Iowa today to discuss federal initiatives to expand broadband at one of Iowa's first "Gigabit" communities. Cedar Falls is an ideal location for the President's announcement, sitting in Black Hawk County, one of the first communities in Iowa that received the Certified Connected Community distinction from Connect Iowa and Governor Terry Branstad in February 2014 for its local, community-driven efforts to improve broadband access, adoption, and use.

"Connect Iowa and Connected Nation are proud to see Cedar Falls and Black Hawk County recognized as leaders in broadband technology," said Tom Ferree, president and COO of Connected Nation. "Today, the country is seeing in Cedar Falls what we already know – that working together, Iowans are committed to continued improvement in broadband access, adoption, and use. Black Hawk County and Cedar Falls are an exemplary model of community-based collaboration through public-private partnerships. Connect Iowa has been proud to help lead Iowa in this process."

Black Hawk County received its certified distinction after weeks of community planning and evaluation. As part of the Connected Community evaluation, Black Hawk County established a broadband committee, including representation from Cedar Falls Utilities, the site of President Obama's speech today, to review existing broadband access, adoption, and use and identify action items to continue broadband improvements.

[Click here to see Black Hawk County, Iowa's Community Technology Action Plan](#)

For more information about the project or to join a Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org or visit connectmycommunity.org. For more information on the broadband initiatives announced by President Obama today, please visit Connected Nation's Policy page, at <http://www.connectednation.org/data-center-policy>.

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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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