



Governor Branstad Recognizes Story County as Certified Connected Community

Story County completes technology plan aimed at bridging technology gap, boosting economy, paving way for improved quality of life

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[View the technology action plan](#)

Story County, IA – Today, Governor Branstad, legislative leaders, and local officials joined Connect Iowa to recognize Story County for becoming a Certified Connected Community and releasing its technology action plan.



"Today, we have the opportunity to join Connect Iowa in recognizing the outstanding efforts of Story County as they are named a Certified Connected Community," said Gov. Branstad at the ceremony at Josephine Tope Community Auditorium in Nevada, Iowa. "Their work thus far is just the beginning as they seek more opportunity to encourage broadband access, adoption, and use. This is an important issue to me and the

reason for my commitment to the Connect Every Acre initiative. The country is taking note of Iowa's broadband efforts thanks to the hard work of communities around the state like Story County."

Story County has been working since September 2014 with Connect Iowa on the [Connected Community Engagement Program](#). This initiative assesses the local broadband landscape,

identifies connectivity gaps, and establishes technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the community. Story County met the requirements necessary to achieve the Certified Connected Community status.

"I am proud of the hard work of the Ames Economic Development Commission and our County staff to guarantee that our community is connected," said Leanne Lawrie Harter, county outreach and special projects manager for Story County. "Recently Iowa and the country was reminded about the importance of broadband when President Obama came to Iowa and Governor Branstad gave his Condition of the State address. Story County has worked hard to put our community on the path to being connected to the world."

"Congratulations to Story County for this special distinction as a Certified Connected Community," said Tom Ferree, Connected Nation president and COO. "Connect Iowa and Connected Nation applaud the community's efforts to complete the Connected community certification and continue to improve the community's access, adoption, and use of broadband technology."

For more information about the project or to join a Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org.

PHOTO CAPTION: *From Left:* Dan Culhane, Ames Chamber and Economic Development Commission; Dave Daack, Connect Iowa; Paul Toot, Story County Board of Supervisors; Governor Terry Branstad; and Rick Sanders, Chairman of the Story County Board of Supervisors

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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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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>