Be a Part of the Plan - Engaging People - Linking the World

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Exploring efforts to increase broadband adoption and utilization in Nebraska will increase community vitality and economic growth. The Nebraska Broadband Initiative, which is in its third year, is designed to increase adoption and utilization of broadband in communities/regions with an emphasis on unserved and underserved regions. Following are a few highlights on current activities.

**Broadband Mapping**

The Nebraska Public Service Commission recently launched a new website to take a closer look at broadband service in the state. Have you ever wondered what Internet providers offer service in your area? Or just how fast your service really is? A new website from the Nebraska Public Service Commission can help answer those questions [https://nebb.broadmap.com/StateMap/](https://nebb.broadmap.com/StateMap/).

**How is this site being used?**

- Test your speed. By testing the speed, you are helping to verify the data on the map.
- Businesses considering a move to an area are using the maps to identify whether or not the infrastructure is available.
- New and current residents can identify providers that serve the area.
- Residents and businesses can provide feedback on the broadband service available.

Figure 1 (on the next page) is an example of the information that can be retrieved from the broadband map site.

**Your Input is Valued**

You can provide input to the Nebraska Broadband Initiative by completing an online assessment or joining a regional planning team. The online assessments are
organized by community sectors including: Community Leadership, Economic Development, Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Teleliteracy and Adoption, Advanced Technology Training, Public Library Services, Education, Health Care, Local Government and Community Services and Agriculture.

Figure 1.

The education community sector has already had more than 360 individuals statewide complete the assessment. Audiences who have taken this assessment include school technology coordinators, technology teachers, school board members, administrators, college and university faculty and staff. Of those responding:

- 20.6 percent believe technology is beginning to be integrated into the curriculum.
- 51.4 percent believe information technology is integrated into much of the curriculum and school operations.
- 25.9 percent see their school as a highly networked environment.
- In five years, 81 percent want to see their school as a highly networked environment.

Ideas were also shared on what needs to be in place to improve the system. You can help influence the Nebraska Broadband Initiative by sharing your ideas on any of the community sectors at http://broadband.nebraska.gov.

Connecting Nebraska Conference

Plan now to join in this conference on October 2, 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Vint Cerf, will headline this landmark event. Coordinated by the AIM Institute, the 2012 Broadband Connecting Nebraska Conference promises to present the information you want – and some you didn’t even realize you needed! Registration will be available at http://broadband.nebraska.gov.

Broadband Site Launched in April

To follow the progress of this initiative, a broadband website was launched in April. On this site you can learn about other activities, including best practice videos, household and business surveys and regional activities.

The University of Nebraska Agricultural Economics Department and the Panhandle Research and Extension Center are cooperatively working with the Nebraska Information Technology Commission Community Council (NITC) and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) to create a statewide broadband plan. This project, funded through the Nebraska Public Service commission, is part of a larger Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) grant to increase broadband access and adoption through better data collection and broadband planning.

Broadband steering team members include: Gene Hand and Don Gray, Nebraska Public Service Commission; Anne Byers, Nebraska Information and Technology Commission; Tim O’Brien and Allison Hatch, State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Rod Armstrong, AIM Institute; Roger Terry, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Ed Media; Charlotte Narjes and Becky Vogt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Applied Rural
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For more information, contact one of the team members listed below, or visit the broadband site at http://broadband.nebraska.gov.

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