



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Co-Chair John Carver, Superintendent, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
Co-Chair Robert von Wolfradt, Chief Information Officer, State of Iowa
Amy Kuhlers, Program Manager, Connect Iowa
Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College
Dave Duncan, President, Iowa Telecommunication Association
Philip Groner, Iowa Communication Network
Karl Hehr, Director of Technology Services, Ames Community Schools District
Galen Howsare, Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Association of School Boards
Karen Randall, Keystone Area Education Association
Michael Sadler, Assistant VP for Public Policy
Larry Siegel, Iowa School Finance and Information System Services
Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Josh Byrnes, State Representative, District 14
Steven Soddors, State Senator, District 36

September 19, 2013

The STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee is soliciting input from stakeholders all across Iowa who can offer insights into the unique broadband challenges facing the state, as well as provide thoughts on possible solutions. This input will help enhance efforts in developing effective policy recommendations to expand broadband access, adoption and use for all Iowans.

To offer comments, please address the questions below. All responses are considered public information, so please do not include confidential information in your response.

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- I. What barriers or other issues can you identify that may impede the increase of broadband access, adoption and use across the state?
 - Lack of funding or budget available to local municipalities (e.g., county, city) to invest in infrastructure required for broadband connectivity
 - Lack of funding or budget available to public institutions that provide broadband access at a community-level (e.g., public libraries, public schools)
 - Lack of coverage by broadband providers in rural areas
 - Affordability of private broadband access for low-income individuals and families, as well as those living in rural areas where broadband access may be more expensive
 - Lack of awareness by individuals and families with low incomes and/or education levels that public broadband access is available (e.g., public libraries)
 - Lack of "perceived" need or value of broadband access by individuals and families (based on income, education level, or general consumer preference)

- II. If you had to choose one *primary* barrier, what would that be?
 - Affordability of private broadband access for low-income individuals and families, as well as those living in rural areas where broadband access may be more expensive



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- III. What recommendations do you have to overcome these barriers?
- Tax credits or incentives to broadband access providers in exchange for cheaper broadband offerings to low income subscribers
 - Tax credits or incentives to broadband access providers in exchange for cheaper broadband offerings to rural subscribers, where rates may currently be high for broadband subscription
 - Tax credits or incentives to low-income broadband subscribers
 - Tax credits or incentives to rural subscribers who reside in areas with higher-than-average broadband subscription rates
- IV. What are your expectations for future access needs?
- Comprehensive broadband access for all Iowans must exist if Iowa wishes to remain economically competitive and create educational and economic opportunities for lower income and less advantaged communities, individuals, and families.
- V. Other comments?