

ICN Insider



ICN's Legislative Preparations Begin

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With the 2011 legislative session rapidly approaching, ICN's Capitol Complex Technicians, (CCT), have started the preparations to test ICN's voice (phone) service provided to the General Assembly. ICN's CCT test the phones prior to the session, which begins on January 10, 2011.

The total number of phones provided to the General Assembly varies from year to year, and is not limited to the House and Senate chambers. ICN also provides phone service to the office areas located behind the chambers and the House and Senate lobby

areas. These areas include switchboard stations as well as phone booth connections.

ICN tests approximately 74 phones for the Senate chamber areas, and 158 phones for the House chamber areas.

Each chamber desk, in the House (100) and Senate (50), contains a phone line which is shared with a modem connection. The CCT place and receive test calls from each phone to ensure the phone has been removed from idle status, as well as to confirm all buttons function properly and the phone connection is clear and without static.

In addition, ICN staff test

every desk phone to ensure that each LED light indicator 'flutters' when the phone is ringing and 'pulses' if there is a message waiting. ICN also uses a test set to place and receive a phone call from each modem port. The test set is an analog set or technician phone that is used to trouble shoot phone issues.

In the past, ICN has coordinated with House staff members to test long distance calls at each desk to confirm that those calls can be placed without any issues.

Each year ICN's CCT place approximately 764 test calls to make sure phones are working properly prior to session.

Be sure to view ICN's Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report, which can be accessed on ICN's website at www.icn.state.ia.us.



Pictured above: ICN's CCTs, Greg Dorrell, Dan Schuchard, and Jason Mease

Pictured below: ICN's CCTs, Jason Mease and Greg Dorrell, testing phones.



**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

ICN is actively working to build relationships with the private sector as well as non-telecommunications companies. For the future, I'm focusing on making sure ICN's message and values are clearly communicated during the 2011 Legislative Session to the private telephone companies' representatives and to elected officials. The vision for the future is to provide a collaborated voice for Iowa's telecommunications landscape.

ICN@lightspeed, the Next Phenomenon

When hearing and/or seeing @lightspeed, imagine fast, reliable, and consistent. @lightspeed is ICN's new trademark tagline to emphasize ICN's high-speed fiber-optic Network. The light, glass, and speed combination can transform Iowa's schools, libraries, government offices, and hospitals into an electronic

hub for distance learning, telemedicine, and continuity of government. ICN is beginning a new chapter to educate Iowans about the unknown facts and remarkable benefits of its infrastructure. ICN's customers are experiencing the light and speed benefits by upgrading their bandwidth

capabilities to maximize the electronic opportunities.

Our customer's requirements and capacities to complete day-to-day tasks are evolving, and it's time to experience the infinite possibilities with ICN@lightspeed.



Students Benefit With ICN's IP Video Service

ICN has been working towards providing its customers with a video conferencing service using an Internet Protocol (IP) platform.

After internal testing, ICN identified Belle Plaine High School (BPHS), as an early adopter, which has provided ICN with

exceptional feedback.

BPHS conducted its first IP video session on Tuesday, October 26. Students are benefiting from German and Spanish classes, as well as a college level course. BPHS is originating sessions and participating as a remote site. Prior to

the IP video site at BPHS, students were transported to an alternative location to participate in sessions. This new service will save customers time and money.

For questions about ICN's IP video conferencing service contact ICNVSPTeam@iowa.gov.

ICN's BTOP Team Works with Sub-Recipients

ICN's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) team is working with the sub-recipients of its grant, Sac & Fox Tribe and The Consortium of Decorah entities. We are pursuing specific tasks which include the completion of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the reporting of milestones, and organization

requirements which define how the entities will utilize and sustain their portion of the network deployment as stated in the BTOP grant.

ICN is also developing an implementation plan, and is currently identifying the priority level for the sites that will be updated.

ICN personnel attended a required BTOP grant workshop in Washington

DC from November 8 - 10, 2010, which provided additional information to better understand the reporting requirements and compliance methodology, which will be critical for the agency's accountability and transparency.

Be sure to view ICN's dedicated [broadband web page](#) for the latest information relating to ICN's BTOP grant.

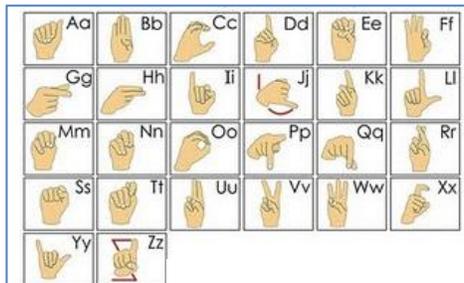
Sign Language Classes Benefit Iowa Families

Eighty percent of children born with hearing loss are born into families who do not know sign language. The Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) is offering Sign Language classes giving parents the opportunity to learn sign language to communicate with a deaf or hard of hearing child using the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). These classes are offered until March 31, 2011. Though the main audience consists of parents of deaf or hard of hearing children, with the help of Iowa Lions Foundation, ISD is now able to open the classes to the general public who may need to sign with friends, co-workers or clients of their businesses. In the class, the instructor

follows the syllabus, reviews, and quizzes the students. The classes currently originate in Council Bluffs, IA, but because of the ICN capabilities, classes are being offered in video sites throughout Iowa. ISD's Outreach Coordinator, Cynthia Angeroth, believes that ICN's video services are instrumental in making the class available. Angeroth said, "Through the ICN, we are able to provide sign classes and topics in

deafness to 450 participants who otherwise would not have access to these free classes. With this class, our goal is to enhance communication between deaf and hearing individuals, and the ICN provides convenient, affordable, and accessible locations throughout the state."

For more information, visit the ISD website: www.iowaschoolforthe deaf.org and click "Community and Professional Resources".



"The ICN is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare."

Employee Spotlight: Dave Lingren

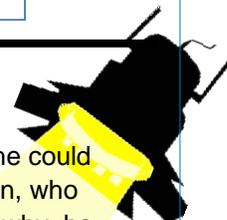
Dave Lingren was recently appointed as Executive Director of the ICN in September 2010. He has been working with the ICN for over nine years, and his first day was on his birthday in April of 2001.

Lingren always tries to place himself in the customer's shoes, listens to their budget concerns, as well as seeks ways ICN can assist them to achieve their objectives.

During Lingren's leisure time he is an avid reader. Lingren reads an average of three hours a day. He also enjoys sports; college football is his favorite sport to watch on TV.

He is actively involved in his church and counsels a couple hours each month (pre-marital, drug abuse, personal and marital counseling). He is also halfway through writing his first religious book called, "Locust Eaters."

When asked if he could meet one person, who would it be and why, he said, "The Apostle Paul. If you study Paul, he thought he had everything figured out. Then he found out through his experiences that he really had nothing figured out." Lingren said, when he thinks he has everything figured out, sometimes something comes along and proves him wrong.



“Do you have new staff, administrators or friends who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please pass it on and have them contact lori.larsen@iowa.gov to be placed on the distribution list.”

Remember to visit ICN’s website at www.icn.state.ia.us to keep updated on all ICN related news.



Iowa Communications Network
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 725-4692
Toll Free: 1-877-426-4692
www.icn.state.ia.us

Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television’s Connections

Zoo Friends: Marvelous Mammals

December 14, 2010; Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM and 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM;
Audience: **Grades 1-4**

Join educators from the Blank Park Zoo for this amazing learning experience! Furry friends are the teachers as your students explore the unique qualities of mammals through role-playing in this 50-minute presentation. Students will be able to list the characteristics of mammals, name some different mammals, and will have the opportunity to see live mammals from the Blank Park Zoo.

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, December 7, 2010



Wild Kratts: Bass Class

Friday, December 10, 2010 (9:00 AM - 9:50 AM, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM);
Audience: **Grades K-3**

Be one of the first to enjoy PBS's newest show, Wild Kratts! Join us for this great new adventure with the Kratt Brothers as we go fishing for large and small mouth bass. We will learn the fish's favorite hiding spots, how daddy bass takes care of their eggs and what bass like to eat.

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, December 7, 2010



Becoming a Large Animal Veterinarian

Wednesday, December 08, 2010, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Audience: **Grades 10-12**

This session is part of a series of sessions that will help your students understand what it takes to become a vet as well as the various fields that students with an interest in animal science might pursue.

During this session your students will have the opportunity to meet a practicing large animal veterinarian. Students will view a video of daily veterinarian routines of administering medicines and treatments.

In addition, a veterinarian that sits on the admissions panel for Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine will talk to your students about what it takes to get admitted and how to be successful in this rigorous academic program.

Registration Deadline – Friday, December 3, 2010

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
Educational Services
(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
abby@iptv.org
www.k12connections.iptv.org

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