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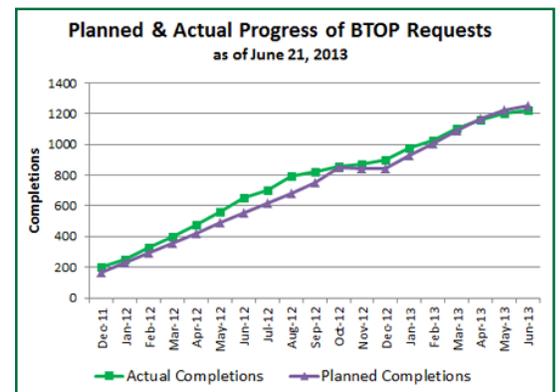
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On June 28, ICN's Commission submitted a recommendation regarding the Sale or Lease RFP 13-006 to the Governor's Office. For information regarding the RFP view [www.ICNRFP.com](http://www.ICNRFP.com)

## Federal Broadband Grant Finalized June 30

The Iowa Communications Network received a \$16.2 million three-year Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) federal grant to enhance its estimated 3,400-mile network infrastructure by increasing bandwidth to all 99 counties with a 10 Gbps (gigabytes per second) capable backbone (including ICN county points-of-presence, Community College and other education endpoints, and the State Capitol Complex endpoint). Switching equipment was added to selected K-12 and library sites, now offering the capability for them to have up to 1 Gbps of data service at the endpoints

Benefits of the grant include removing legacy equipment (553 existing sites were upgraded), simplifying the process of troubleshooting equipment, providing additional bandwidth to edge points, and cost effectively bringing authorized users to the network at the bandwidth capacity their applications require. The project included 231 new sites impacting 429 customer locations and 824 equipment installations. Customers who had existing leased connections (typically 1.5 Mb speed) were able to be increased to 10 Mb immediately on turn-up, with growth potential exceeding 100Mb.



Decorah Metronet and the Meskwaki

Nation were sub-recipient partners of the grant and have been greatly successful with the completion of their portion of the BTOP enabled networks. The federal grant provided five miles of middle-mile fiber routes to connect the Meskwaki Nation's tribal community anchor institutions (settlement school, tribal clinic, and tribal center), and in a separate initiative the tribe itself deployed over 14 miles of FTTH (fiber to the home) fiber routes to approximately 196 residences. The Decorah Metronet installed just over eight miles of fiber to government and educational entities in Decorah.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) service of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IHSEM) Division has also benefited, providing 88 NG911 connections at 85 separate facilities across Iowa. The NG911 deployment consists of a highly available emergency services IP Network connecting all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the state to two geographically redundant call logic centers.

Due to being under budget, ICN was also able to purchase higher capacity routers for some locations to deliver 10 Gbps as opposed to their original 1 Gbps.

## 2013 Legislative Session Review

The Legislature adjourned on Thursday, May 23, after completing work on several significant policy issues. The following were the bills of interest to ICN:

**House File 638** included an appropriation of \$2,727,000 to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2013-2014 for Part III (fiber leased from private providers that was installed to connect schools and libraries, etc.) maintenance and lease costs and \$2,248,653 for equipment replacement for fiscal year 2013-2014. HF 638 also allows the ITTC to enter into contracts in excess of the contract limitation amount established in section 8D of the Code of Iowa. The bill was signed into law by Governor Branstad on June 20.

**House File 603** included appropriation of \$992,913 for fiscal year 2013-2014 and \$496,457 for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Regional Telecommunication Councils (RTC) for maintenance

of video classrooms, regional scheduling, and Local Area Network (LAN)/Wide Area Network (WAN) technical support. The appropriation is a “pass through” to community colleges and is used to assist educational users of the network. The bill was signed into law by Governor Branstad on June 17. Visit <http://icn.iowa.gov/about-icn/commission/rtc-appropriation> for additional information.

Commissioner Richard Bruner’s Chair and membership appointments with a term through April 30, 2019 were confirmed by the Senate on April 8. Commissioner Mary Sellers membership appointment with a term through April 30, 2016 was confirmed by the Senate on February 20.

An additional change was the appointment of Mary Mosiman as Iowa’s new state auditor, which occurred in May. The State of Iowa Auditor is an ex-officio member of the Commission, providing oversight with no voting authority. This Commission change required no legislative action.

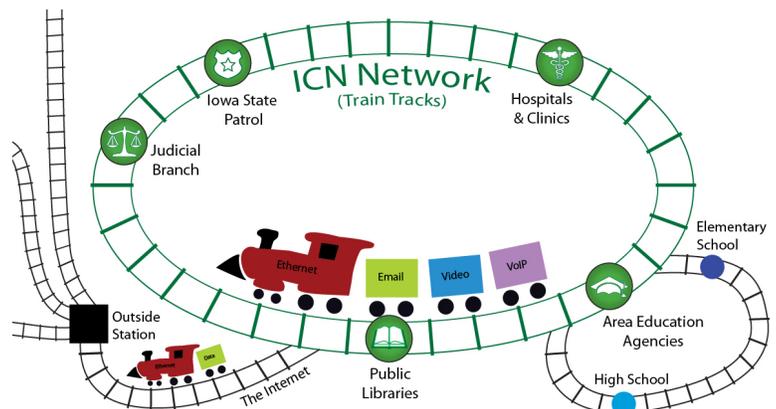
### Back to the Basics - Data versus Internet

You may not have realized or understood the difference between Internet and data. To illustrate this and how the ICN provides these services, we will use a train analogy. The ICN Network is the green tracks and the stations along the tracks are our users. Data is the individual cars of the train (i.e. a package of information) that move along the tracks which can be an email, IP video, or voice (VoIP – voice over IP). An Ethernet connection is one possible engine providing a fast speed at which the data travels along the track.

The ICN tracks are laid state-wide, and include both the owned fiber and leased fiber connections. If someone within state government sends an email to someone else in state government, this is a data connection since the packet of information stays on the ICN fiber tracks. If an email is sent to a business or entity outside of state government (and not to an ICN authorized user), the Internet comes into play, because it needs to divert off our ICN fiber tracks. The email is sent to an outside station to travel anywhere in the state or world.

The AEA’s (Area Education Agencies) are each stations, also known as aggregation sites that have their own smaller offshoot of tracks which connect K-12 schools in their geographical area. They are able to provide lower cost service to the schools since they can provide a single connection to our network, instead of each school having to build out their own connection/tracks.

With Internet service, an entity or individual can browse websites without any exchange of data. It is not considered data usage until data like an email is sent or a video is uploaded or downloaded.





## Employee Spotlight Victoria Harris

Vicki Harris is a Senior Telecommunications Specialist within the Operations Division of the ICN. She currently serves as the Network Operations Liaison, the Service Desk System Administrator, and the Project Manager for Asset Manager, an HP Software product designed as an asset tracking database. Vicki has been with the ICN for 12 years, and has held a variety of positions. She has previously been the Operations Supervisor, a Telecommunications Specialist, and the Capitol Complex Wiring Technician Coordinator. Her favorite part about her job is helping customers get their services restored.

Before ICN, she previously worked for the US Army, the Richardson Police Department, and the R. Jan LeCroy Center for Telecommunications. Vicki graduated from Richland College (Richland, Texas) with an Associate's degree in General Studies, and then obtained a Bachelors of Science degree in Information Technology in 2003 from the University of Phoenix.

Vicki was born and raised in Michigan. She joined the Army in high school and served around the world, with stations at Fort Dix, NJ; Fort Devens, MA; Seoul, Korea; Fort Huachuca,

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## ConnectED

Early in June, President Obama announced an education initiative called ConnectED, designed to bring high-speed Internet to 99 percent of students throughout the US. The initiative would jump-start the effort to connect American students to today's modern broadband connections so videos can be streamed and students can be connected on individual devices.

The President has asked the FCC to raise speeds to no less than 100 Mbps with a target of 1 Gbps within the next five years. One way this could be possible is through a modernization of the E-Rate program, which ICN currently participates in.

To learn more about the plan for "connecting all schools to the digital age" visit [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/connected\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/connected_fact_sheet.pdf).

AZ; Defense Language Institute; Presidio of Monterey, CA; Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX; and Augsburg, Germany. Her tour lasted eight years serving during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm as a Signal Security Specialist and then a German Linguist. Her duties during Desert Storm varied in Germany. She did a little of everything from Training NCO (non-commissioned officer), Operations NCO, and was tasked to translate signs. On occasion she told German contractors working in the barracks not to leave their beer bottle empties lying around. After her time in the Army, she lived in Dallas, Texas, before moving to Des Moines in 2001.

When she's not working hard at the ICN, she enjoys spending time with family, playing with her dog Sophie, and attending Drake Women's basketball games. Vicki has also recently discovered geocaching, an online outdoor treasure hunting game where one uses a GPS to hide and seek containers. She and her grandson have been especially active on biking trails and logging geocaches (containers) along the way.

### *A Message from the Executive Director*



The video service that ICN supplies is only a small part of what the ICN has become. We provide Internet and data bandwidth to authorized users at capacity levels that in many cases would not be available if the Network backbone did not exist.

ICN is aware that the traditional video classrooms have aged, but the video equipment in those rooms is owned by the schools or other authorized users, not the ICN. ICN is diligently working to move the traditional video platform to incorporate an internet based video experience.

In the past we have said that lowans are no more than 15 miles from a video site connected to the ICN, but with IP video, the connection will bring video directly to users through technological capabilities of tablets, desktops, and multiple purpose rooms.

David Lingren, ICN Executive Director

## Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educators through Iowa Public Television's



### Stories & More: Under the Earth

**July 9, [10 - 10:50 AM](#), [1 - 1:50 PM](#); July 11, [10 - 10:50 AM](#), [1 - 1:50 PM](#)** (click on session time to register)

Audience: **Language Arts/Communication, Science, Social Studies, Grades K-5**

James Quinn, local Geologist and Lapidarist will join us this week for a discussion on rocks in Iowa and the story that each tells. We'll be reading the story *Rocks And Minerals*, then discussing and showing examples of each of 3 different types of rocks. He will also show some of examples of jewelry he's created from rocks in Iowa, as well as fossils from around our state.

Registration Deadline - July 5

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### Summer Fun with an Archaeologist

**July 15, [1 - 2 PM](#) or July 31, [10 - 11 AM](#)** (click on session time to register)

Audience: **Careers/Vocational Education, Guidance/Personal Growth, Science, Grades 2-5**

During the session, kids will learn all about what an archaeologist does in her work. This staff member from the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, specializes in the study of people who once roamed the plains. During the session she will conduct a really fun inquiry-based activity. No supplies needed by the library.

Registration Deadline - July 9

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### Summer Fun: Learning about Energy

**July 10, [1 - 2 PM](#) or July 17 [1 - 2 PM](#)** (click on session time to register)

Audience: **Science, Technology, Grades 2-5**

Join AmeriCorps staff for an engaging presentation about the most common types of energy we use. The presentation will cover nonrenewable and renewable sources of energy. And, we will help your audience think about how to save energy everyday!

Registration Deadline - July 3 or 10

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The mission of IPTV K-12 Connections is to provide Iowa's K-12 educators and students access to unique opportunities to participate in distance learning experiences via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

#### **For More Information About Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:**

Debbie Wineland or Abby Brown - Educational Services

(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181

[abby@iptv.org](mailto:abby@iptv.org)

[www.k12connections.iptv.org](http://www.k12connections.iptv.org)

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