



ICN Insider

Iowa Communications Network
May/June 2013 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Atlantic High School Opens New IP Multipurpose Room	1
Iowa Broadband Summit	2
A Message from the Executive Director	2
Employee Spotlight	3
Back to Basics	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

Have you visited and bookmarked ICN's new website?

www.icn.iowa.gov

For information regarding the Sale or Lease RFP of the Network view

www.ICNRFP.com

Atlantic High School Opens New IP Multipurpose Room

Atlantic Community School District (CSD) recently enhanced their video experience to the next level of distance learning, incorporating a new IP multipurpose room at the high school. With the remodeling of the middle school, it was decided to move their video site to the new location and the school district has arranged for fiber to connect the two schools.

Atlantic has utilized the new site by continuing the tradition of conferencing with a high school chemistry class at Freemont Mills High School. IP sites are able to connect the new technology with the previous MPEG technology which is important for schools that have not converted to IP. Atlantic has had no trouble connecting to the MPEG equipment at Freemont Mills.

Atlantic's new multi-purpose room consists of a podium that encompasses the hardware, speakers and mics in the ceiling, a smart board monitor up front and a screen with projector in the back. According to Roger Warne, the Technology Coordinator at Atlantic, it works wonderfully. "We don't need large tables and the equipment doesn't take up much space - there was a lot of bulky equipment in the old room," said Warne. The room is also used for other meetings and classes because of the flexibility to connect a laptop to the projector.

Atlantic's chemistry instructor Steve Baier, after a short adjustment period, is now comfortable with the equipment and really likes it. A point-of-view camera was added for easier demonstration of assembling equipment for labs. During their current partnership with Freemont Mills, Baier also credits para-professional Delores Moles for her support in taking attendance, helping with labs and coordinating the class locally for the students. The class is junior/senior level and receives dual college credit through Iowa Western Community College.

Baier suggested using the ICN when he was hired 10 years ago. The principal and technology staff were very supportive which he says is needed for flexible scheduling and help with equipment.

Warne looks forward to conferencing in HD. "As long as you have a computer, you should be able to get the information," he said. "We can be used as an originating [video] site to help out students in other school districts where it is hard to get an instructor [for certain subjects]."



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First Annual Summit Explores Broadband Access, Adoption and Use in Iowa

Connect Iowa held the first annual Iowa Broadband Summit on April 9, 2013 at the State Historical Building. The mission was to “bring together community leaders, industry and economic development professionals, broadband providers, and policymakers from across the State to address the progress being made in Iowa to expand broadband access, adoption and use.”

The conference centered on residential and commercial use of broadband, but touched from time-to-time on areas that ICN has involvement. One panel discussion on community planning, included Wayne Pantini from Union County who reported that East Union School has added the 1:1 laptop program.

“Broadband is a journey, not a destination,” said keynote speaker Diane Smith, CEO, American Rural, reinforcing that every time broadband equipment is upgraded, planning should begin for the next upgrade in the future. Smith also says that technology is inseparable from economic growth, offering many examples of people who make their living by working from home, using the Internet.

Debi Durham, Director, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), suggested we look at connectivity today in comparison to the national highway system in the mid-20th century. National and worldwide high-speed connectivity is the new normal, and the ICN provides valuable infrastructure for the State of Iowa.

“As we look forward to spawning new opportunities for broadband deployment in Iowa, the current public/private partnership is a cost effective method of attaining this goal,” said ICN Executive Director, Dave Lingren, a member of the Connect Iowa Advisory Committee.

Although we can only serve specific authorized users, ICN is in the position to help Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald who was awarded the first Connect Iowa Broadband Hero Award for his work with FirstNet, the congressionally mandated First Responder Network Authority. FirstNet is directed to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network allowing all state and national agencies to communicate with each other. It will be used by first

responder organizations to supplement normal radio communications for public safety. Having an extensive fiber network already in place in Iowa, (unlike other states) will put Iowa in the forefront when the construction of the nationwide Network begins. The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Board, of which Director Lingren is an advisory committee member, has been designated by Governor Branstad as the primary point of contact for FirstNet issues in Iowa.

“Iowa has been in the forefront of broadband innovation because of the ICN’s existence,” said Director Lingren. “We were the first state to deploy Frame Relay Service (FRS) in partnership with the private sector.

Now the FirstNet project presents an opportunity to use the government owned ICN backbone to allow expansion of private sector facilities to improve broadband deployment across the state.”



A Message from the Executive Director

Our core Network is fully redundant, while supplying our authorized users with a private, confidential, and secure enterprise Network. With ICN providing the technological expertise of administering the state-wide Network, it allows our users to focus on fulfilling their organization’s mission, while not requiring to be concerned about the security of the information being transported.

An example of the benefits of a private Network is, in the event of a state-wide disaster, our public safety users are able to coordinate communications with no interference from the public switched telephone network which supplies the Internet connections that the general public uses.

Dave Lingren, ICN Executive Director



Employee Spotlight Jeremy Howard

For the last four years Jeremy Howard has worked as the Telecom Specialist Senior for the ICN's Product Engineering and Delivery (PED) group. Jeremy's primary duties include daily moves, adds, and changes (MAC) and troubleshooting of all voice (phone) equipment. Jeremy is a member of a team that maintains and monitors the voice network for the State of Iowa and its employees. Without this team the voice network maintenance, design, MAC work and trouble issues would not be functional. With the MAC responsibilities, Jeremy does routine work monitoring phone settings and locations to ensure optimum performance, while also handling customer voice/phone trouble ticket issues using ICN's Service Desk System. He enjoys the unpredictable nature of his position, and that he can't predict what exactly

is going to come next. Before working at the ICN, Jeremy worked at CITI group as a Network Telecom AVP.

Jeremy is an outdoorsman who loves fishing, hunting, and bonfires with his family. He even dabbles in taxidermy and raising deer when he's not busy at the office. It's no surprise then that if Jeremy could meet one person in history he would pick the frontiers legend Davy Crockett.

When Jeremy isn't conquering the great outdoors or working diligently at the ICN, he spends his time volunteering. He currently helps out with the Indianola trap team, Ike's in Indianola, Indianola football, and the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association.

Some favorites of Jeremy's are: blue has been his favorite color all of his life, his favorite travel destination is Florida, and his favorite food is tacos at Rudy's in Lacona Iowa.

Back to the Basics - Network Users

Created 20 years ago for education through distance learning, no one could envision how critical the Network backbone would be today to state government, the judicial branch, healthcare, public safety and libraries.



Education

With many schools implementing the 1:1 laptop or iPad program, the focus on STEM, and the increased demand for bandwidth, education continues to use a large amount of Network bandwidth.



Judicial

State Judicial Branch and judicial district departments of correctional services use the Network to reduce prisoner transportation costs, improve efficiency, and shorten case time.



Healthcare

Hospitals and physicians clinics benefit from "telemedicine" for diagnostic, clinical, consultative, data, and educational services for the delivery of health care services by licensed health care professionals or hospitals.



Public Safety

Iowa Department of Public Safety, Public Defense, the Iowa National Guard, and Iowa's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division utilize the Network. HSEMD's Next Generation (NG) 911 initiative will connect Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) throughout the State. Iowa is poised for the construction of FirstNet (First Responder Network Authority), which is being overseen by the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Board.



Libraries

City, regional, county or libraries that are part of an authorized user facility can connect to the Network. These libraries are centers for lifelong learning within communities, provide equity of access to information and publications in all formats, and a place for people to gather for meetings, classes and discussion groups.

The equipment in the video sites around the state is owned by each authorized user, not by ICN. ICN provides the Network connection for those sites to connect in a cost-effective environment.



The ICN, a state agency, 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.

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



Arthur Goes to Camp

May 15, [9 - 9:50 AM](#), [10 - 10:50 AM](#), [12:30 - 1:20 PM](#) (click on session time to register)

Audience: **Language Arts/Communication, Grades 1-3**

Summer is near and students will enjoy hearing the story Arthur Goes to Camp by Marc Brown since they may share some of Arthur's feelings about staying at a camp. Join an interactive discussion of story elements, writing activities and great publishing ideas for Arthur stories. Students will also practice writing postcards that they will finish in the classroom. Get ready to register for fun at camp now...see you in the K-12 Connections cabin!

Registration Deadline - May 10

African American Athletes

May 24, [10 - 10:50 AM](#) or [1 - 1:50 PM](#) (click on session time to register)

Audience: **Cultural Diversity, Social Studies, Grades 4-7**

Why not end the school year with a workshop on sports! Discover the impact African American athletes have had on their teams and in their communities. Learn about their fight for the right to equal treatment on and off the field. Explore the lives of athletes across several sports, from baseball, to football, to wrestling and even golf!

Registration Deadline - May 17

Stories & More: Just Dig It

June 11, [10 - 10:50 AM](#) or [1 - 1:50 PM](#) (click on session time to register)

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

Summer Stories & More sessions are correlated with the national summer reading program. The theme for 2013 is Dig Into Reading. Sessions consist of a story read aloud, a professional guest presenter, and an activity. Each week is a new topic and several opportunities to participate.

Registration Deadline - June 7

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:

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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