



ICN Insider

Iowa Communications Network
May/June 2014 Newsletter

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ICN is proud to announce its involvement in IPTV's PBS LearningMedia iptv.pbslearningmedia.org offering enhanced educational opportunities for educators and students in Iowa.

Appointment Changes to the Commission

On April 16, the ITTC members and ICN staff said farewell to Dr. Robert Hardman, who elected not to apply for re-appointment to the Commission after 12 years of service. Dr. Hardman expressed what an honor it was being chosen and appointed to the ITTC. He has thoroughly enjoyed the time spent working with the Commission and ICN staff. Being involved from day one as an educator, Dr. Hardman is extremely pleased at the direction the ICN is headed. He is excited to continue reading about future activities of the ICN and the Commission.

Prior to his service on the Commission he served on the executive planning committee for the development of the ICN, and delivered many national and international workshops and presentations on the use of educational technology and telecommunications. Dr. Hardman has been honored with numerous awards, including: the Career Achievement Award from the Educational Telecommunications Council; the Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Association for Communication Technology; the national Excellence in Teaching and Teacher Education Award, presented by the United States Distance Education Association; and the Lamp Lighter Award, the most prestigious award offered by the Iowa Educational Media Association. Dr. Hardman is professor emeritus at the University of Northern Iowa, from where he retired in 1999.



Robert Hardman

Kelly Dolan Lange was appointed by Governor Branstad on March 4, and began her term on May 1. Ms. Lange's appointment was confirmed by the Senate on April 1.

Lange started her career in higher education at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. She then transitioned into working as a staffer for United States Congressman John Kline of Minnesota, currently the Chairman of the Education Workforce Committee. Lange later transitioned back into higher education where she worked for Trinity University in Washington D.C. and most recently Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa. Lange graduated from East Buchanan High School in 1999 and the University of Iowa in 2003. She received her Master of Arts in Leadership in Student Affairs in 2005 from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She currently serves on several committees for the Independence Community School District and is the youth choir director at St. Johns Church in Independence.



Kelly Dolan Lange



Iowa Communications Network | Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street | Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-725-4692 | Toll Free: 877-426-4692

Visit us on the web at www.icn.iowa.gov

Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

A public safety communications initiative has been underway since 2012, when President Obama signed into law provisions to fund and govern a nationwide public safety broadband network. The goal is when natural disasters or other emergencies occur anywhere in the country, the first high-speed network dedicated to public safety will enable local, state, regional, and national emergency responders to communicate using a single network. The interoperability will incorporate wireless, fiber, cellular, and radio systems, which will solve communication challenges faced by emergency responders in different jurisdictions. 'Interoperability' means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized. Depending on where the critical event happens will determine the infrastructure functionality used. FirstNet, an independent authority within the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), is heading the national effort to implement the public safety network that will be built across the United States.



In late March, ICN leadership met with FirstNet officials to hear about Iowa's effort in the nationwide process. Iowa is about to begin the state consultation phase, with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) leading the charge. The board has been designated by Governor

Branstad as the primary point of contact for Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). ICN will serve as a critical partner with the ISICSB for the network build out. Having a secure fiber network already in place to provide backhaul for the public safety network will put Iowa in the forefront when the construction of the nationwide network begins. In addition, ICN's successful completion of its federal NTIA

broadband grant in 2013 has enabled the ICN to develop the skills and experience necessary to provide significant support in the completion of this initiative.

To learn more about the work being completed by the ISICSB visit <http://www.isicwb.iowa.gov/>. For information regarding the national FirstNet initiative visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/firstnet>.

Department of Corrections Migrates Voice Platform OpenScape Voice

The Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) recently migrated from managing their own telephone system, at two of their locations, to an ICN managed voice system. During the first quarter of 2014, ICN implemented the OpenScape Voice Platform at the Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville and the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison. Both facilities are active for administrative telephone traffic and inmate calling traffic using the ICN. The offender calling system provides the opportunity for inmates to connect with their families. DOC anticipates the Fort Madison and Mitchellville voice projects to be blueprints for the other institutions voice system needs.



Offender Calling System

Nearly 15 years ago, ICN partnered with DOC to manage the offender calling system (OCS). Last year ICN and DOC searched for a new vendor to replace the current platform. A feature that the new calling system needed to still include was recording of local and long-distance calls, captured, and transmitted using the Network. The purpose of the OCS is to make available to the designated offender population access to, and use of, a telephone during certain hours of the day to make pre-paid phone calls. This access is supervised and monitored by DOC staff. The cutover for the new offender calling system was implemented last quarter at Fort Madison, Mitchellville, and the additional six DOC institutions. The projects were successful, and we are looking forward to continuing the partnership with DOC. Visit <http://icn.iowa.gov/services/voicephone> for more information.



Employee Spotlight Patrick McGinty

Patrick McGinty has been with the ICN for 16 years as an Account Consultant in the Business Services Division. He strives to find the best service solution and products to meet customers' data, voice, and video needs. Much of his time is spent: planning strategies for customer meetings and identifying users' short and long term plans for services.

Patrick finds it very rewarding to meet and work with customers, as well as the ICN staff. His coverage area is located in the Western half of the State, as well as the Des Moines area. A memorable experience for Patrick was many years ago at ICN's office at Camp Dodge in Johnston when a tornado hit the area. "Several of us were standing at the door looking out at the dark skies, when suddenly the winds ensued. Someone said I think this is a tornado, when

another said it was not....and suddenly the roof on the white house across the drive was peeled off in one swoop!"

Prior to ICN, Patrick worked at Hallmark Cards where his first territory included Hallmark stores and retailers in Maine, New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts. The next assignment was Hallmark retailers and corporate stores in the greater Boston area and Cape Cod. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Drake University.

His favorite place to eat is Christopher's, known for its excellent Italian-American cuisine in Des Moines, his favorite color has always been blue, and favorite travel destinations are Florida, Maine, and Ireland. In his leisure time he enjoys working outside on his acreage, traveling, spending time with his family, and volunteering with his parish and shut-ins in the community.

ICN's Savings Report Eliminated

State agencies no longer need to submit an annual report to the General Assembly identifying savings associated with their state agency's use of the ICN. House File 2288 was signed into law by Governor Branstad on March 26, which eliminated the requirement of the ICN Savings Report.

The savings report format followed the original reported guidelines, and solely reflected the use of the traditional MPEG (broadcast) video. The savings report did not include calculations for ICN's other services like IP video, voice (phone), or Internet/data.

Video technology has changed significantly since the early 1990s, which is a substantial reason why ICN staff supported the elimination of this report. The value of the Network has evolved into providing critical communications to hospitals, public safety, state/federal government entities, and for the statewide Next Generation 911 system. Although significant savings have historically been reported, the report didn't reflect the complete value of savings that the ICN provides to its users. Contact Jontell Harris at Jontell.Harris@iowa.gov for additional information or if you have any further questions.

Back to the Basics - What is Broadband?

Broadband matters to education, healthcare, public safety and government. So what is it? Broadband service provides a higher-speed of data transmission - how fast data downloads from the Internet Service Provider to the user (whether on a phone, computer, or tablet).

In the past the information (data) was very small, now files are much larger in size. Today YouTube videos and online news need more speed to download or stream without buffering. Broadband strength is measured by how fast videos can stream or large content pieces can download.

In the State of Iowa, officials are asking questions about broadband. Do we have enough? Is there enough broadband connectivity in all areas of the State? Are there areas in the State where there is not yet broadband, which are considered unserved or underserved?

Expect to hear continued discussion about broadband from the State of Iowa, ICN, and the private telecommunications providers.



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.



PBS LearningMedia Online Curriculum through Iowa Public Television

ICN is partnering with IPTV to bring you PBS LearningMedia (<http://iptv.pbslearningmedia.org/>), offering enhanced educational opportunities for educators and students in Iowa. Sign up for a [FREE account](#) and start using PBS LearningMedia today!

Math in Fashion

Audience: **Grades 7-10**

Following a profile of fashion designer and Project Runway winner Chloe Dao, students are prompted to alter garment designs, using their sense of style combined with their math skills to hit target price points. Algebra concepts explored include: linear relationships; rates (percents), ratios, and proportions; using multiple representations; algebraic and numeric expressions, equations, and inequalities.

[Learn More...](#)

21st Century Learning

Audience: **All**

Hear about different models of 21st century learning skills from experts in the education field. Chris Rush from New Classrooms, Teresa Napoli from School of One, and Rebecca Rufo-Tepper from the Institute of Play discuss the emergence of new approaches to learning, such as personalized and game-based learning.

[Learn More...](#)

Population Sampling: Fish

Audience: **Grades 5-8**

In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students watch videos and complete interactive activities to learn how the Ojibwe tribe in Minnesota measure the abundance of various fish in their lake, how they interpret the data they collect, and how they make predictions about future populations based on their findings. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a mathematics focus on population sampling. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities.

[Learn More...](#)

PBS LearningMedia Contacts:

Angela Hiatt - angela.hiatt@iptv.org - (515) 725-9722

Abby Brown - abby@iptv.org - (515) 725-9721

(800) 532-1290

iptv.pbslearningmedia.org

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