



# ICN Insider

Iowa Communications Network  
September/October 2017 Newsletter

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ICN was highlighted in the Sept 2017 issue of [Business Review USA](#). (p118-129)

## ICN's Vision:



## Next Group of Broadband Students Selected to Give Strong Technology Input

Fifteen students across Iowa are interacting in the third year of ICN's Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC). SYBAC was established to engage Iowa students on a variety of broadband related topics. Throughout the school year, the students will meet with ICN Executive Leadership to discuss the importance of true high-speed broadband. In previous years, SYBAC students discussed a range of topics including: broadband dead zones in schools, driverless cars, gaming and coding as a life skill, encrypting vs. non-encrypting data, and wireless communication technology.

### The following students were selected to SYBAC for the 2017-2018 school year:

- Alaina Allen, English Valleys Jr-Senior High School
- Connor Baack, Southeast Polk High School
- Lewis Callaway, Clear Lake High School
- Kyle Cortez, Cedar Rapids High School
- Josiah DeValois, North Polk High School
- Austin Grant, Boyer Valley High School
- Beau Lapointe, Mason City High School
- Meghna Mallapan, Des Moines Public High School
- Olivia Moore, East Union High School
- Cole Mundus, Earlham Community School District
- Cole Schippers, ADM High School
- Lucas Schwamman, Osage High School
- Jonathyn Stiverson, Council Bluffs High School
- Olivia Tidwell, Sioux City High School
- Blake Van Der Kamp, Prairie City Monroe (PCM) High School



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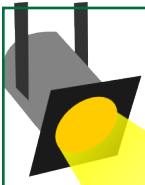


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## Employee Spotlight Barb Jones

Barb Jones has worked with the ICN for 21 years as a Telecomm Specialist Senior in the engineering division. Her duties consist of taking care of the DMS 500 switch at our Network Operations Center. This piece of telecom equipment is used for our local and long distance phone service. Barb explains that the best part of her job is ‘the people’, and doing her job to the best of her abilities. Barb completed the Telecom program at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

In her leisure time she enjoys spending time with her immediate family, especially her wife, dog, and cat. She enjoys fishing and helping her older neighbors with yard

work and snow (even though she doesn’t enjoy snow herself). A few of Barb’s favorites include: filet mignon from her grill is her favorite food, silver and black are her favorite colors (Raiders), and her favorite travel destination is Las Vegas.

A memorable life experience that Barb describes is marrying her life mate and driving up a mountain in Arkansas to a crystal mine where she was able to mine her own crystals. Barb says if she was stuck on an island she would bring the following three things: “fishing equipment, her spouse, her dog and her cat...oops that is four, oh and Internet.”

## Broadband News from Around the Web

### [First Responder Network crucial for Iowa’s safety](#)

On a normal day, the general public is already placing unprecedented demand on cellular networks to access the internet, stream videos and use social media or other apps. But during high-volume times — such as disasters or large public gatherings — usage spikes and commercial networks can reach capacity, just when first responders need it most for vital, life-saving communication.

### [Iowa welcomes significant data center investment from Apple](#)

Gov. Kim Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and Waukee Mayor Bill Peard joined Apple CEO Tim Cook to announce the company’s significant investment in Iowa. At special meetings earlier today, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Board and the Waukee City Council took action to support a more than \$1.3 billion data center.

### [Building virtual worlds to prep for the real one](#)

University of Iowa undergraduates work shoulder to shoulder with leading experts in labs where virtual reality and other high-tech tools are put to use daily to improve our world.

### [Bringing a high-speed network to rural Iowa](#)

Eighty years ago, the rise of rural electric cooperatives

changed the everyday lives of Iowans by bringing electricity to the farm. Today, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) is drawing on that same spirit of innovation by bringing a high-speed fiber optic communications network to rural customers.

### [DMACC & ISU Partnership Creates the Iowa Cyber Hub™](#)

Iowa State University (ISU) and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) have entered into a partnership to establish the Iowa Cyber Hub™ a regional facility where companies can work with ISU and DMACC on cyber security issues with the goal of creating a larger cyber security workforce.

### [South Slope launches new internet plans](#)

South Slope Cooperative Communications has launched new high-speed Rocket Internet plans for residential and business customers featuring speeds up to 1 Gigabit which is the equivalent of 1,000 Mbps.

### [Work to begin soon on rural Iowa broadband project](#)

A rural telephone cooperative in western Iowa will begin work soon on upgrades to its broadband capabilities. The Coon Valley Cooperative Telephone Association in the Guthrie County town of Menlo recently landed a \$6.5 million loan for the project from the USDA.

**BROADBAND MATTERS**

**BROADBAND STRONG:** Delivering **FLEXIBLE** broadband and **FAST** experiences to meet the growing broadband needs of education, government, public safety, and healthcare in Iowa.

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