



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



VIRTUAL LEARNING

Jefferson teacher wins virtual learning scholarship for her kindergarten class

In January 2020, kindergarten teacher Lisa Seaba at Jefferson Elementary was one of 38 teachers who was selected to receive Internet2's Community Anchor Program (CAP) distance learning scholarship. Muscatine CSD connects to Internet2 through ICN.

Source: Muscatine Journal

Education

[5 Things to Know About E-Rate Applications for 2021](#)

E-rate applications must be submitted by midnight on March 25, and there are several things to keep in mind while applying this year.

Source: Tech & Learning

[Sioux City Schools' new all-virtual academy gets state approval](#)

The students would learn in their homes, using technological equipment from the district, and those with glitchy Internet access could also get a boost from mobile hot spots.

Source: Sioux City Journal

[Indiana Teen Helps Nonprofit Expand Access to Telehealth](#)

One teen is continuing to expand her efforts to make a difference in the lives of those who need exceptional access to health care the most during the coronavirus pandemic.

Source: Center for Digital Education

[Rebuilding Learning Beyond the Classroom](#)

Schools are thinking creatively about learning opportunities for their students in remote and hybrid environments — and so are the companies making the tech tools they rely on.

Source: Ed Tech Focus on K-12

[FCC Seeks Comment on Petitions to Use E-Rate Program Funding for Remote Learning](#)

Multiple petitions have sought emergency relief so schools & libraries can assist students who need to learn remotely, but who lack internet access at home.

Source: Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

Public Safety

[FirstNet and LMR: Bringing connectivity to first responders in Iowa's 99 counties](#)

The LMR and LTE systems have played critical roles in day-to-day response as well as major

incidents, including the 2020 derecho & a missing children's case.

Source: FirstNet

[Creating a culture of collaboration in public safety](#)

The right technology will not only coordinate incident response with task management, activity status, reminders and reference resources, but it will also accelerate the response.

Source: GCN

Cybersecurity

[Online Living During the Pandemic Has Fueled Digital Fraud](#)

A new report estimates that 84 million received a phishing attempt during the pandemic and that 56 million had a false bank or credit card account opened in their name.

Source: Government Technology

[Data Privacy Day is an annual reminder to safeguard personal online data](#)

With so many people working from home, online security is more important than ever, and it's easy to start protecting yourself

Source: Consumer Reports

[App Alerts State's Residents to Suspicious Activity on Their Phones, Tablets](#)

Michigan Secure app warns of phishing attempts, vulnerable software, risky settings and more.

Source: Route Fifty

[What do you think? Is the future #passwordless?](#)

The past year has put digital identity challenges, security and passwords under scrutiny. This report explains why passwordless is the future.

Source: Security Boulevard

Government

[Secretary Of State Paul Pate Announces Availability Of Election Cybersecurity Grants For Counties](#)

Pate says the grants are being funded through the "Help America Vote Act".

Source: Explore Okoboji

[How Should Governments Plan for the Latest Network Tech?](#)

Tech company leaders and a chief innovation officer discussed how the usage of 5G and Wi-Fi 6 tech should be based on both organizational needs and citizen viewpoints.

Source: Government Technology

[FCC Readies for the Next Round of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program](#)

"We take the next step toward committing funding... by finding it is in the public interest to expand the administrative responsibilities... to include the Program."

Source: FCC

Healthcare

[Use of telemedicine soars during pandemic](#)

"Technology use by consumers had matured, and people had developed a comfort level with on-demand services. The time was right for telehealth to take off."

Source: The Gazette

[How to Frame Post-Pandemic Telehealth Use for Patient Satisfaction](#)

As medicine eyes a post-COVID world, clinicians need to fine-tune their telehealth strategies for the technology to continue to drive patient satisfaction.

Source: PE Health IT

Digital Divide

[Tucson Builds Public-Private Partnership to Expand Connectivity](#)

Officials in Tucson, Ariz., are working on an ambitious community wireless program to expand connectivity for teleworkers and virtual students.

Source: Center for Digital Education

[How Open Education Resources \(OER\) Can Cross the Digital Divide](#)

Less than a decade after publishing its first free, openly licensed textbook, OpenStax — Rice University's educational technology initiative — has saved students \$1.2 billion.

Source: Market Scale

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.