A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the Iowa Communications Network

ISU and partners receive major research grant to drive innovation in rural broadband connectivity

ICN is a partner, along with the Iowa DOT and others to support ISU in the development of the new testbed to study wireless technology to bridge the digital divide.

Source: Iowa State University

Digital Divide

Standalone Broadband Reaches 41% for U.S. Households, Mobile Bundling Sees Momentum
Standalone is defined as broadband without bundled pay-TV service. That figure is up from 33% in the first quarter of 2020.
Source: Telecompetitor

FBA Sees $100 Billion Cost for Nationwide Fiber Broadband
The estimate is based on research conducted for Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) in the fall of 2019, finding that an additional $70 billion would be required to bring broadband to 90% of the U.S. by 2029.
Source: Telecompetitor

Healthcare

Governors Lead On Expanding Access To Affordable Broadband For Telehealth Services

The essential connection between internet access and access to health care has never been more pronounced. The National Governors Association highlighted ICN's commitment to our healthcare users before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: National Governors Association

Unused Funds Increase Rural Health Care Program Funding for Year 2021
USAC projects that, $379.97 million in unused funds is available for use in future Rural Health Care (RHC) Program funding years beginning in 2021.
Source: Benton Institute

Cybersecurity

Protecting Against Ransomware – From the Human Perspective
In this overview SANS explains what ransomware is, how it works, and most importantly, how to empower your workforce to protect against it with three simple steps.
Source: SANS Institute

CISA Starts Cataloging Bad Practices in Cybersecurity
Two bad practices highlighted in an effort to help critical infrastructure providers prioritize dangerous practices that are exceptionally egregious in internet-accessible technologies.
Source: Nextgov

Education

How colleges can be proactive about the ransomware threat
Increased online activity during the pandemic intensified the impact of cyberattacks on higher ed, one expert explains.
Source: Higher Ed Dive

5 ways one district evaluates its digital content purchases
Purchasing digital content can be a confusing and unfulfilling process--here's how this district ensures success.
Source: eSchool News

Post-COVID, Apps Help Students with Depression and Anxiety
Here's how three Philadelphia-area mental health advocates & grassroots organizations built apps this past year to help young people tackle issues like depression & anxiety.
Source: Center for Digital Education

Public Safety

New NHTSA Solicitation Offers Glimpse into Next-Gen 911 Landscape
Using NG911 technology, the 911 call "finds" the appropriate public safety answering point (PSAP), and does that faster that legacy systems.
Source: MeriTalk

Next-Generation 911 Expected to Thrive in the US as Managed Services Accelerate Market Momentum
NG911 supports a more diverse set of IP-based communications that will dramatically improve the speed, accuracy, and preparation of first responders.
Source: KPVI-TV

Government

USDA, FCC, and NTIA Announce Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Broadband Funding Deployment
Prompting agency leaders to improve information sharing to best deploy federal broadband funds.
Source: US Dept of Agriculture

St. Louis, Mo., Area County Invests in Cybersecurity
The Madison County, Mo., Leadership approved $163,000 in new funding for additional cybersecurity software in an effort to combat the event ransomware attacks hitting their network.
Source: Government Technology

Protect yourself, your community, and the infrastructure that makes daily life possible
One goal: Safe digging. Three ways to achieve it: Tap, click, or call. Always contact 811 before starting any digging project.
Source: National Excavator Initiative

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.