



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: December 22, 2021

We are Hiring!

ICN is seeking an Accountant 2 to perform internal audit duties and other revenue review and expense control tasks. Application deadline is January 6, apply today: [Accountant 2](#)

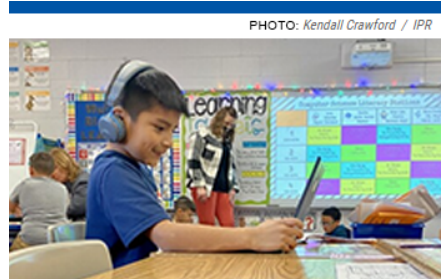


PHOTO: Kendall Crawford / IPR

An Iowa program brings coding into elementary schools. Educators hope it levels the playing field

Amid the classroom staples, there are also robots of different sizes that whirl around the gray carpet, all controlled by fourth-graders.

Source: Radio Iowa

CODING EDUCATION

Iowa Related

[Wapello County, Iowa, Sees Progress With Cyber Training](#)

Wapello County, Iowa, has taken strides in ensuring that its employees are training on cybersecurity, but the county still has work to do, as it falls below an 80 percent compliance rate.

Source: Government Technology

[Iowa State University gets \\$1.4 million to buy 3D concrete printer for low-cost homebuilding](#)

Its goal is to build a neighborhood of up to 34 3D-printed homes in Hamburg, a southwest Iowa town recovering from a massive flood two years ago.

Source: Ames Tribune

Sector Related

Government

[How State and Local Agencies Can Make the Most of ARPA Funding for IT Modernization](#)

Funds can be allocated for government services, such as “modernization of cybersecurity; health services; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

Source: State Tech

Healthcare

[Telehealth needs to stay. Here’s how we can make the most of it](#)

Telehealth was one of the bright spots of the pandemic, but many states are already rolling back changes that let doctors meet with more patients online.

Source: Fast Company

[Broadband is the Achilles’ heel of telehealth](#)

The fate of virtual care adoption is tied to the fate of broadband expansion.

Source: HIMSS

Education

[Advertisers are sucking up student data, even after legal action, researchers say](#)

Researchers identified the sharing of commercially valuable student data with advertisers when looking into a sample of 18 different school and school districts’ apps.

Source: CyberScoop

Public Safety

[Helping connect first responders after devastating tornado outbreak](#)

The resiliency of the FirstNet network kept it operational at more than 91% of normal in Kentucky immediately following the tornado.

Source: FirstNet

[National 911 Program Selects Industry Partner for 911 DataPath Data Exchange Model Pilot](#)

The data exchange model will be owner-agnostic, scalable, expandable, and agile. It is designed to enable the routine sharing of 911 data, creating actionable knowledge that enhances public safety as well as emergency response outcomes.

Source: MeriTalk

Cybersecurity

[Security Tools for K–12 Districts in Today’s Cloud Environments](#)

These cybersecurity solutions strengthen your security posture while shrinking your attack surface by focusing on your strongest — and weakest — links: your users.

Source: EdTech Focus on K-12

Digital Divide

[New Mexico Senate passes broadband, highway spending bill](#)

Legislators hope that an influx in federal funding and the creation of a dedicated state broadband office will help accelerate internet connectivity efforts, especially in rural communities.

Source: Daily Nonpareil

[USDA Invests \\$5.2 Billion to Build and Improve Critical Rural Infrastructure in 46 States and Puerto Rico](#)

359 investments that USDA is making in seven programs designed to help people in rural areas access high-speed internet, clean water and dependable electric power.

Source: USDA

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.