A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: March 24, 2022

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa Department of Education award over $500,000 to grow computer science teacher workforce

A total of 136 school districts and nonpublic schools will benefit.

Source: Iowa Dept. of Education

Iowa Focus

[Mobile app helps researchers identify developmental delays and diagnose autism among young children](#)
The goal for medical officials is to get even further ahead of these diagnoses with the app BabySteps.
Source: KCRG

[Expanding broadband access to rural areas in Siouxland](#)
"...A tremendous number of really strong rural providers have made good investments but that doesn't mean that the job is done..."
Source: Siouxland Proud

Sector Focus

Government

[Is Virtual Reality the Future of Expert Testimony in Court?](#)
A defense lawyer in Florida has filed a motion asking a judge to have jurors use virtual reality goggles that would give them a simulated look at an alleged crime from the perspective of the defendant.
Source: Government Technology

[Senators Ask DHS for Strategy to Protect U.S. Critical Infrastructure from Russia](#)
They also raised a series of questions about modern cyber and disinformation threats.
Source: Nextgov

Healthcare

[Importance of Telehealth Continues Growing Amid Pandemic](#)
Experts say that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed greater emphasis on telehealth, which has

been around for years but was put to use urgently when the coronavirus spread in early 2020.
Source: Government Technology

Telemedicine Helped Many MS Patients During Pandemic

"Many individuals with MS have physical disabilities that may make travel more difficult, temporary expansions of telehealth coverage should be made permanent after the pandemic in order to expand access and reduce health care disparities."
Source: Daily Nonpareil

Education

Hacker games and trojan tales: new CyberSprinters activities now available to download

Three interactive stories for 7 to 11-year-olds from the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency, where kids play a trainee cyber spy working in a team tackling cyber crime.
Source: The UK National Cyber Security Centre

How Did States Use ARP Funds for Career Technical Ed?

The U.S. Department of Education has detailed many ways that states are using American Rescue Plan funds to make up for lost instructional time, create new CTE and summer programs, and incentivize work-based learning.
Source: Government Technology

Michigan Invests $2.7M to Expand STEM Programs for K-12

"STEM education opportunities are critical as we prepare young Michiganders for high-tech, high-skill careers that will serve as the backbone of Michigan's economy."
Source: Government Technology

Public Safety

AT&T Executive: FirstNet Business Saw 60% Growth Year Over Year in 2021

FirstNet network now has nearly 3 million connections across 20,000 agencies, and the network now covers more than 2.9 million square feet.
Source: Radio Resource

New tower company vows to take public-safety-centric approach to commercial wireless

The company has been contracted to provide 100 cell sites in western states and will seek opportunities to help public-safety agencies improve their internal communications coverage—for LTE and/or LMR systems.
Source: Urgent Communications

Cybersecurity

Celebrating 50 Years of Cybersecurity at NIST!

Check out their timeline showing efforts to cultivate trust in information, systems, and technologies to provide a foundation for cybersecurity advancements.
Source: National Institute of Standards and Technology

A Big Bet to Kill the Password for Good

A "FIDO credential" manager, instead of literally storing passwords, will store cryptographic keys that can sync between devices and are guarded by your device's biometric or passcode lock.
Source: Wired

Digital Divide

[New 'digital equity' data, mapping tools opened to state and local agencies](#)
The tools allow states and cities to skip much of the data modeling needed to understand the digital divide.
Source: StateScoop

[In Dallas, Better Citizen Services Begin With Broadband](#)
From public safety, to sanitation, to libraries, and more, the city of Dallas is aiming to deliver those services with a foundational commitment to improving the availability of broadband services to all.
Source: MeriTalk

[Does your wireless company participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program?](#)
This is the third in a series of articles looking at which providers are opting into the Affordable Connectivity Program.
Source: Benton Institute

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.