A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: April 21, 2022

Spread the Word: Looking for Broadband Student Ambassadors to apply for the
[Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC)](#)

Iowa Students to Convert School Bus into STEM Class

Students in Mount Vernon will use a $40,000 grant to outfit a school bus with technology & convert it into an elementary classroom with solar panels, a deck & an outdoor learning space.

Source: Government Technology

Iowa Focus

[Companies need to be curious about emerging technology, prepare for future of work](#)
Takeaways from Iowa Technology Summit keynote speaker Ian Khan
Author and documentary filmmaker Ian Khan, touched on trending technologies and concepts like blockchain and cryptocurrency, Web 3.0, automation, robotics, globalization and the metaverse.
Source: Des Moines Business Record

Sector Focus

Government

[Feds: State-Backed Hackers Are Targeting Energy Sector](#)
A bulletin from the FBI, NSA, DHS and Energy Department warns that state-backed hackers are using special malware to attack organizations in the energy sector.
Source: Government Technology

[Wash. Education Bills Focus on Digital Equity, Mental Health](#)
Three pieces of legislation set to go into effect June 9 in Washington state aim to expand broadband, fund more school nurses and counselors, and allow students to miss school for mental health reasons.
Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[When Automation Meets Empathy: Intelligent Virtual Assistants for Healthcare](#)
Advances in conversational artificial intelligence are transforming basic chatbots into intelligent virtual assistants that provide comfort and utility for healthcare consumers and the healthcare organizations that serve them.
Source: HIT Consultant Media

[Bipartisan Bill Aims to Increase Access to Virtual Mental Health Services](#)

Three US senators have introduced legislation to increase access to virtual mental health services for children and underserved populations.
Source: mHealth Intelligence

[Rural Providers to Use USDA Grants to Boost Telehealth Capabilities](#)

USDA is providing $43 million in new funds to rural healthcare providers, many of whom have earmarked the funds to implement and support telehealth services.
Source: mHealth Intelligence

Education

[Should I get a minor in computer science?](#)

A minor in computer science gives college students in-demand skills. Find out which majors it pairs best with and what professional opportunities it can create.
Source: ZD Net

Public Safety

[AI app fills last-mile GPS gap for responders](#)

Beans.ai digitized the info on hydrant locations, building exits and other crucial data and ran machine learning algorithms on them to speed responder accuracy and response.
Source: GCN

[FirstNet Helps Emergency Communications Center Adapt during Pandemic](#)

The Arlington, VA emergency comms center was one of the first to deploy remote 9-1-1 operations using FirstNet. The results? Continuity of operations, a valuable recruiting tool, and increased capability for mutual aid.
Source: FirstNet

Cybersecurity

[Eight Ways To Train Staff About Workplace Cyber Threats](#)

With more businesses working remotely or adopting hybrid workplaces, cybersecurity training is more important now than ever before.
Source: Forbes

[Attackers unleash LockBit ransomware on US government computers](#)

According to Sophos, the route of attack stemmed from vulnerabilities in the system's open firewall ports.
Source: TechRepublic

Digital Divide

[Rural Broadband: A Necessity, Not a Luxury](#)

Discussing the importance of broadband access to rural America and the vital role it plays in supporting and sustaining those communities around the country.
Source: Farm Bureau

[NTIA chief: We're aiming to deliver 100/20 Mbps broadband to every American](#)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) chief revealed the agency is beefing up its staff to help states administer the billions in federal funding headed their way.
Source: Fierce Telecom

Misc

[Consumer panel raises idea of 'consistency score' for broadband labels](#)
During a roundtable session, a group of consumers from around the US honed in on the fact that what really matters is service consistency. If they're purchasing a plan based on average speed, they said, how often can they expect to get those advertised average speeds?
Source: Broadband World News

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.