A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the Iowa Communications Network
Weekly Update: April 28, 2022

Youth in Action for Broadband… Students passionate about broadband, technology apply to Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC)

TELEHEALTH

AMA survey: Majority of physicians say telehealth enables more comprehensive quality care

Most respondents, however, point to the digital divide as the biggest obstacle to accessing virtual services.

Source: Healthcare IT News

Iowa Focus

Rock Valley Ag Teacher Gets Grant To Help Teach About Drones
Micah Weber, the High School Agriculture Education Instructor at Rock Valley Schools, tells how the the grant and the kit will help him prepare students for careers in agribusiness.
Source: KIWA Radio

Alliant Energy creates book to keep students interested in STEM
"The Power Chronicles", a graphic novel series, is being launched across Iowa targeted toward girls in fifth through eighth grades.
Source: Iowa's News Now

Sector Focus

Government

5 Ways Governments Can Attract and Retain Tech Talent
New federal funding means state and local governments will have more digital infrastructure to support than ever. Investing in staff technology skills and finding creative ways to attract new hires are essential.
Source: Government Technology

Nebraska Offers Digital Skills Training Platform to Seniors
The Nebraska State Unit on Aging has partnered with GetSetUp.io, a virtual learning platform, to bolster digital skills and a wide range of other life skills among older adults across the state.
Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

Feds warn of 'exceptionally aggressive' ransomware threat targeting healthcare
The Hive group uses many common ransomware tactics, including the exploit of remote desktop

protocol or virtual private networks (VPNs), and phishing attacks.
Source: Fierce Healthcare

Education

[Virtual Instruction Is Here to Stay. Here Are 7 Tips for Doing It Well](#)
Survey data clearly show that schools across the country are making virtual learning an option in different ways and at different levels for the long haul.
Source: Education Week

[Cloud-Based Technology Expands STEM's Reach](#)
Science, technology, engineering and math programs that are set in the cloud can be accessed by a wider range of students and can be operational no matter where learning takes place.
Source: EdTech: Focus on K-12

Public Safety

[FirstNet adoption tops 3.3 million connections and 20,500 agencies](#)
Source: Urgent Communications

[How to Get Acceptable Dispatchable Location Information for E911?](#)
There are a number of steps that provide guidance and accountability that give high-quality dispatchable information to the first responders.
Source: No Jitter

Cybersecurity

[3 ways to increase cybersecurity while working remotely](#)
It's important to take extra precautions to protect your computer from cyber threats. Here are three ways to increase your cybersecurity.
Source: Techaeris

[Thieves Hit on a New Scam: Synthetic Identity Fraud](#)
In addition to the Paycheck Protection Program rip-offs, fraudsters have used synthetic identities in many unemployment benefit scams, leaving states scrambling to try to recoup the erroneous payments.
Source: Government Technology

[White House Official Urges Cyber Protection of Solar Energy](#)
In San Antonio on Wednesday, a White House official urged the private sector to partner with government to build a "cybersecurity foundation" to protect solar power sources from cyber attacks.
Source: Government Technology

Digital Divide

[What's New in Digital Equity: Millions Continue Flowing for Broadband](#)
At both the state and federal levels of government, millions of dollars in new funding continue to be made available for broadband projects across the U.S. Plus, advocacy groups release new guidance resources for the work.
Source: Government Technology

Misc

[Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet](#)
For more than 15 years, Pew Research Center has documented its growth and distribution of

internet service in the US. Explore the patterns of internet and home broadband adoption.
Source: Pew Research Center

Strategies for Crafting Effective State Broadband Plans
How states can capitalize on funding, other opportunities and expand high-speed internet access
Source: Pew Trusts

Kansas City's largest coder competition to convene over 300 software developers this summer
Hack Midwest will bring together software engineers to build apps for a chance to win the equivalent of thousands of dollars in prizes.
Source: Silicon Prairie

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.