

ICN Insider



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Keep up-to-date with ICN's Legislative Initiatives by visiting the [Stakeholders Center](#).

For information regarding the Sale or Lease RFP of the Network pursuant to House File 45, view the [RFP Implementation Team](#) page.



Introducing ICN's New Website

In February, ICN introduced its public-facing website with the new URL of www.icn.iowa.gov. The Communications Team worked with Iowa Interactive to redesign our web environment to meet Governor Branstad's Executive Order 73 standards. Those standards require that all state government websites have a similar navigation structure and architecture environment. ICN's previous URL will direct visitors and traffic to the new site. If you have specific URL pages bookmarked on your computer, it is suggested to update your bookmarks

to be directed to the same information on the new website.

Some enhancements to the new website include:

- Adding information related to Benefiting Iowans and a Customer Focused section to educate the general public.
- The contact us page includes five electronic forms for a more seamless experience for visitors with questions or requesting information.
- Added "Text Size" enlargements and "breadcrumbs" to help

visitors identify their location and progress through the website.

ICN's new logo illustrates the dedicated commitment the Network has to its authorized users and Iowans. Icons are portrayed for education, judicial, healthcare, public safety, and libraries; while also displaying the services of Internet, voice, data, and video.



Positive Impact to Next Generation 9-1-1

The ICN implementation of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant is having a positive impact to the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) service of the State of Iowa Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IHSEM) Division.

Once complete, ICN will provide eighty-eight (88) NG 911 connections at eighty-five (85) separate

facilities across the State of Iowa.

The NG911 deployment consists of a highly available emergency services IP Network connecting all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the state to two geographically redundant call logic centers.

Barbara Vos, the E911 Program Manager said, "By utilizing the ICN as

our network provider for the state's wireless 911 network, the IHSEM division's 911 program was able to upgrade to an IP enabled system as part of our Next Generation 911 project enhancement to the wireless 911 network. The other plus for our program is the cost savings, which enable us to provide more funding to the local 911 PSAPs for needed upgrades to their equipment."

**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

Created 20 years ago for distance learning, no one could envision how critical the Network backbone would be today. In February 2012, federal legislation was passed creating a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) for all first responder organizations. The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Board views the ICN network as a critical piece of infrastructure that is paramount for public safety in Iowa. Having an extensive public fiber network already in place in Iowa, (unlike other states) will put Iowa in the forefront when the construction begins. By using the ICN infrastructure it is anticipated to save Iowa taxpayers millions of dollars.

Network Evolves Along with Technology

The ICN's fiber optic network continues to be a model for other states. The recent enhancements to the Network with federal funds allows for capacity to provide dedicated bandwidth for the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program (lead by the Iowa Hospital Association), public safety, homeland security, and the growing needs of the education system.

ICN is aware that the traditional video classrooms have aged, but the video equipment in those rooms is owned by the schools or other authorized users, not the ICN. ICN is diligently working to move the traditional video platform to incorporate an internet based video experience.

ICN partners with the Board of Regents universities to purchase Internet at an extremely discounted rate. The low rate enables authorized users of the Network to obtain affordable Internet service. The ICN recently provided an opportunity for education users to double their Internet bandwidth with no change in their monthly cost.

ICN runs the state-wide Network, which often exceeds 70 percent utilization, with 81 employees and has not received a general fund appropriation since Fiscal Year 2004 for the operation of the Network. Although ICN's annual report shows a loss, the financial statements are shown using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). As a government entity in a fee-for-service

environment, ICN uses accrual accounting with a measurement focus emphasizing the matching of revenues with costs of services, including depreciation of assets such as network equipment and fiber.

Originally used primarily for distance learning, the State's fiber optic Network has evolved into providing critical communications not originally thought of 20 years ago. When a rural hospital submits an MRI for a second opinion in minutes as opposed to hours, or a public safety officer calls for back-up by radio, or a 911 dispatcher receives an emergency call; all of this communication travels on what now makes up today's ICN.

Commission Released RFP for Network

On February 6, the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) released the requirements for potential bidders interested in buying or leasing the State's state-wide fiber optic Network

The ICN backbone includes an estimated 3,400 miles of state-own fiber and 5,261 miles of leased fiber connections. The State only has authority to sell or lease

the state-owned portion of the fiber Network; the leased miles are owned by private telecommunications providers.

Interested bidders will have until April 30 to submit proposals for the Network. Potential bidders had an opportunity to ask questions at a bidders' conference held on February 28.

In May, an ICN internal team will evaluate the bids

received, and the Commission will generate a report for the governor's office.

Legislation passed during the 2011 legislative session required the ITTC to implement a request for proposals (RFP) process for the sale or lease of the ICN.

For additional information visit www.ICNRFP.com.

Update - USAC Window Dates Announced

We are in the midst of the [Universal Service Administrative Company's](#) (USAC) E-rate cycle, and below is helpful information for many of our customers involved with e-rate.

The FY2013 application filing window for the FCC Form 471 will close at 11:59 pm EDT on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The window is open for 93 days.

Important dates for FY2013:

March 14, 2013 – The FY2013 application filing window will close at 11:59

pm EDT. For your FCC Form 471 to be considered as filed within the filing window, it must be submitted online, received by USAC, or postmarked no later than the filing window closing date. Your Item 21 attachment(s) must also be submitted online, received by USAC, or postmarked no later than the filing window closing date.

If you are filing online, you are encouraged to certify your FCC Forms 470 and 471 right after you submit them. The online system gives you both electronic and paper certification options on the screen

following the submission screen.

Ask for assistance. If you have questions, please contact the Client Service Bureau at 1-888-203-8100 or [submit a question online](#). In addition to program information, they can provide information on the status of your forms.

For additional e-rate information contact ICN's USAC Administrator Angela Schneider at angela.schneider@iowa.gov or Iowa Department of Education's E-rate Coordinator, Pamela Pfitzenmaier Jacobs at Pam.Jacobs@iowa.gov.

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing lowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.



Employee Spotlight: Jontell Harris

Jontell Harris is ICN's Director of Government Relations; her main focus is managing the internal process of the RFP for the Sale/Lease of the ICN. She started at ICN in May of 2010 as the Marketing and Communications Intern and was hired full-time as the Marketing and Communications Specialist in September of 2010.

Jontell attended Drake University where she earned two degrees, a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications (Radio-TV Broadcasting) and a BA in Sociology. She also recently completed the Certified Public Management program

offered through Drake.

Jontell stays very busy also working part-time at Iowa Methodist Hospital as a Unit Clerk. When not working, she finds time to volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Investing In My Future Inc., IPTV, The Blacklist, National Kidney Foundation, Community! Youth Concepts, Back 2 School Bash and I'll Make Me A World In Iowa.

Much of Jontell's leisure time is spent keeping up with the activities that her nieces and nephews are involved in. She has one niece who is a sophomore at the University of Iowa, another niece who is a junior at Des Moines East

High School, and a nephew who is a freshman at Valley Southwoods.

One day, Jontell would like to make a difference in her community and be influential to others. If Jontell could meet anyone in history it would be Araminta Harriet Ross aka Harriet Tubman, conductor of the Underground Railroad. Jontell admires Tubman's courage and dedication to helping slaves escape to freedom. Jontell would ask about the experiences of what it was like to take on such an extraordinary role and responsibility. Tubman put her life in danger to help others achieve the freedom that was rightfully theirs.



Do you have new staff, administrators, or friends who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please pass it on and have them contact lori.larsen@iowa.gov to be placed on the distribution list.

Remember to visit ICN's website at www.icn.iowa.gov to keep updated on all ICN related news.



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Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

Zoo Friends: Zoo Detectives

March 27, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM, 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM
Audience: **Science, Grades 1-4**

Join educators from the Blank Park Zoo for this fascinating session about clues that animals leave behind. Kids become detectives as we read the story *What Am I?, An Animal Guessing Game* and as we explore all the different ways that scientist learn from what animals leave behind. Droppings, tracks, and remains are just a few of the topics discussed with children. Also, meet a couple of live friends from the zoo.

Registration Deadline – March 22

Careers in Agronomy: Taped

March 29, 2013: Various Times Available
Audience: **Grades 8-12**

In the next 40 years, the global population is expected to increase from 7 to 9 billion people. This increase in population will leave us with many problems that will need to be solved such as the need for clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources. We will also need to provide food and fiber for this growing population. Agronomists are working on these issues every day. Agronomy is the combination of many areas of science which manages plant resources and the environments where plants grow.

Registration Deadline – March 20

Stem Cells and Cloning: What about Dolly?

April 30, 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM and 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Audience: **Grades 9-12**

Science teachers bring your students to hear an engaging and interesting presentation from Professor Shawn Ellerbroek, Chemistry/Biochemistry Department, Wartburg College. Dr. Ellerbroek will begin his presentation with an easy to understand definition of stem cells. He'll talk about what makes them unique and the difference between embryonic and non-embryonic or "adult" stem cells. He'll discuss some of the potential uses of stem cells and share news about some big developments in the field in the past few years. This is also a great way for your students who are interested in science to see a young professional working in the field.

Registration Deadline – April 23

For More Information About Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
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(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
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