

ICN Insider



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICN Holds Outreach Conference	1
ITTC Submits Quarterly Status Report	1
ICN's Involvement with the World Food Prize	2
Productivity Made with Federal Broadband Grant	2
Universal Service Information Update	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

The ICN Insider will be back in January with a new edition. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.



ICN Holds Outreach Conference

ICN held its third IN TOTO conference on October 13, at the Iowa Valley Community College's Continuing Education Center in Marshalltown, Iowa.

The theme of the conference was *The 'Quiz' Show, Quite Useful Information Zone*, which highlighted technologies being utilized with distance learning and broadband services; ranging from the gaming theory within education to the consequences of not having high-speed Internet connectivity.



Angela Maiers, an award winning speaker, presented her topic at ICN's IN TOTO Conference.

Conference participants heard how lowans will have increased educational enhancements, improved technology opportunities, and increased economic development with distance learning and broadband (high-speed Internet) services.

The IN TOTO conference included speakers,

presentations, and breakout sessions in an engaging, interactive environment. Attendees also took advantage of learning more about services that ICN provides to lowans.

If you were unable to attend, we have uploaded photos, videos, and handouts to our website at www.icn.state.ia.us/intoto.

ITTC Submits Quarterly Status Report

On October 1, the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) submitted its first quarterly status report regarding the sale or lease of the Network pursuant to House File 45, which was signed by the Governor during the 2011 legislative session. The report included progress made, milestones, and legislative requests made by the ITTC.

A significant milestone completed was to ensure transparency throughout the entire process. The ITTC submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a program manager to coordinate the research and assembly of the overall RFP for the sale or lease of the ICN. The external program manager's contracted responsibilities were awarded to Fiberutilities Group of Cedar Rapids,

Iowa, on September 28.

In the near future, the ITTC will create an RFP Implementation Team (RIT), which will provide routine input, opinions, and authoritative decision making by stakeholders to effectively create the RFP mandated by law.

To read the October 1 quarterly status report, visit ICN's website at: www.icn.state.ia.us/itc/RFPImplementationTeam.

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

The service that most Iowans know ICN for is its video conferencing. An evolution from the full-motion video to an IP based solution will provide the capabilities for Iowans to have access to content that may not have been available with the previous video conferencing system. This new technology will set the stage for advancements, which includes desktop possibilities, recording, streaming, storage, and eventually conferencing using mobile devices. We are eager to deploy this service to our customers who are enthusiastic to utilize it.

ICN's Involvement with the World Food Prize

The 24th annual World Food Prize ceremony was held in Des Moines, Iowa, on Thursday, October 13. As everyone enjoys the ceremonies and collaboration involved, there was much preparation completed behind the scenes to ensure that a successful event could be viewed in all Iowa households.

What you may not have known is, as Iowans

were watching the World Food Prize broadcasted on Iowa Public Television (IPTV), the HD (high definition) TV signal was transported across a 23 Mbps (megabits per second) ICN point-to-point circuit. This circuit connection was from the Capitol to IPTV's studio location in Johnston, IA, then distributed out to multiple transmitter towers located throughout the state, using ICN's fiber-optic backbone

connection.

ICN has been actively involved in providing live HDTV remote feeds for many years for multiple events broadcasted on Iowa's public TV station.

It is anticipated that IPTV will utilize the similar live HDTV remote feed, utilizing ICN's fiber-optic Network, in January 2012 to broadcast the Condition of the State Address at the Capitol for Iowans to see.

Productivity Made with Federal Broadband Grant

Over the last three months, ICN and its vendor partners have been extremely productive in reaching the milestones identified for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) deployment project.

The most significant milestone was the installation and turn-up of the new ICN core network in the Northwest quadrant of the State. By replacing the core network, the ICN is able to provide a state-of-the-art, 10Gbs (gigabytes per second) robust backbone that provides resiliency and increased capabilities to our customers. With this implementation of the quadrant, over 800 CAls

(Community Anchor Institutions) are now able to acquire increased capacity.

Also in the last quarter, over five million dollars in networking equipment and services were ordered to be deployed at core, aggregation, and customer site locations. We have engaged significant engineering resources for the design and programming on the Network. In addition, we continue to plan and work with the grant's sub-recipients, the Meskwaki Nation and Decorah Metronet, for their own network deployments. The ICN is on schedule to meet the project completion date of June 30, 2013.

As we progress through the project plan, additional network changes are required. The changes may affect your organization and ICN connections for brief periods as we upgrade the Network. These upgrades are planned to minimize the impact to customers as much as possible. Network outages for most of these upgrades will be scheduled to occur during nighttime hours, whenever it is feasible. If you experience any disruption of service, please contact our Network Operations Center immediately, 24 hours a day, at 800-572-3940, or icnservicedesk@iowa.gov.



Universal Service Information Update

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.

- **Don't forget to file USAC Form 500 to return unused funds to USAC for 7/01/2010 thru 6/30/2011:** If you have completed invoicing USAC for the services delivered, and your properly-completed invoices have been paid, check to see if any funds remain with your FRN (Funding Request Number). This action can be accomplished by

filing a Form 500, *Adjustment to Funding Commitment and Modification to Receipt of Service Confirmation Form*. This form returns unused funds to USAC, makes the funding available for commitments to other applicants.

- **The deadline to file USAC Form 486 for 7/01/2011 thru 6/30/2012 was October 31, 2011:** Applicants that waited until October 31, to file their Form 486, may observe delays in processing and review at USAC.
- **Form 471 Webinars:** In preparation, Pam Jacobs,

Iowa E-Rate Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Education, will conduct Form 471 webinars. Those webinars will be scheduled once it is known when the Form 471 application "window" will open. Topics to be discussed are new requirements for districts and schools regarding changes to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), revisions for the technology plan requirements, and new issues in review and funding of E-rate applications.

If you have questions, contact [Angela Schneider](#) (ICN) at 515-725-4622.

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: Vicki Wallis

Victoria (Vicki) Wallis is a Telecommunications Technology Enterprise Expert within the Network Operations and Engineering division.

Her primary duties at the ICN are network planning, assisting with the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), projecting financial impacts of technology plans, and various other projects. Vicki has been with the ICN for eight years, six of which she served as the Manager of Engineering. Vicki says the best part of her job is the satisfaction

she gets from knowing her work helps the citizens of Iowa enjoy the best technology available.

Vicki grew up in Springfield, Missouri, and attended the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri Science and Technology University) where she earned a BS in Nuclear Engineering and an MS in Engineering Management. Following graduation she moved to Tulsa to attend law school at the University of Tulsa. She went on to work for WorldCom (now Verizon) in network planning and Williams Communications (now Level3) in network

planning and engineering management. Vicki utilizes her law experience while volunteering as a Legal Counsel for the Iowa Jaycees Foundation.

Vicki loves to travel. One of the most memorable moments in Vicki's life was her trip to the Taj Mahal in India. Vicki notes the intersection of beauty, design, and engineering as a sight to behold. During her travels through the states, Vicki tries to attend concerts and visits with family.



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.state.ia.us 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

Animal Winter Preparation

Wednesday, November 23, Multiple Viewings
Audience: **Grades K-2**



Where do animals go in the winter? How do they survive cold winter nights? Students learn different strategies animals use to prepare themselves for the long winter ahead. Find out which animals are true hibernators and discover that birds aren't the only animals that migrate. The program allows time for student questions, so come prepared.

Registration Deadline - Friday, November 18, 2011

Lost Egypt Exhibit and Resources

Wednesday, November 16, Multiple Viewings Audience: **Grades 5-8**



The Lost Egypt exhibit is an immersive quest for knowledge that reveals how archaeologists use modern science and technology to uncover and understand the ancient civilization of Egypt. Through hands-on challenges, authentic artifacts and guidance from real archaeologists, visitors will unearth the mysteries of Egypt, its culture and its people.

Teachers, join this session as you are introduced to the exhibit as a Science Center of Iowa (SCI) teacher takes your students through a fun and interactive activity.

Registration Deadline - Friday, November 11, 2011

Lunch and Learn: New Free Resource for Teachers from PBS

Tuesday, November 8, Multiple Viewings Audience: **Educators**

Join this short 25-minute session to learn about the newest PBS resource for educators. PBS LearningMedia is a new public media education platform available to every teacher and student across the country in time for the 2011-2012 school year. Bringing together the best available high-quality media from 1500 public media producers and more than 350 local PBS stations, PBS LearningMedia is a next-generation digital media platform for PreK-16 classrooms to help re-imagine classroom learning, transform teaching, and more creatively engage students.

Registration Deadline - Thursday, November 3, 2011

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
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www.k12connections.iptv.org