



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



After discovering a love for computers, Cedar Falls junior is leading her own girls coding camp

The virtual camp, called SparkIT – Cedar Falls, includes 11 fifth- to eighth-grade girls who are students in the Cedar Falls Community Schools.

Source: The Courier

Education

[Free digital resources to support teaching and learning](#)

These videos, images, books, activities and more are provided to our accredited public and non-public PreK-12 schools and can be accessed by students and educators at home or school.

Source: Grant Wood AEA

[STEM Council Teachable Moment](#)

Teachable Moment, a carefully curated, small collection of lessons and activities selected by your STEM Network Team to help make STEM learning accessible, even from home.

Source: Iowa STEM

[Virginia high school to Launch Cybersecurity Academy](#)

With about 35,000 tech security jobs available in Virginia, a small rural high school plans to launch a cybersecurity academy, with a big grant from the federal government to do so.

Source: WVTF RADIO IQ

Cybersecurity

[Prioritizing data backup to defend against ransomware threats](#)

There were nearly 200 million ransomware attacks globally in 3rd quarter of 2020. Cybercriminals are not just targeting frontline systems, but recovery solutions & data backups.

Source: GCN

[After SolarWinds attack, universities double-check for compromise](#)

The incident may have affected as many as 18,000 customers using a network management product called Orion, according to SEC documents.

Source: Ed Scoop

[Smart Security - Cybersecurity Validation](#)

Every week, more clients require vendors to prove their cybersecurity readiness—and managing all the requests can get overwhelming. Hear tips for efficiently handling the stream of responses.

Source: Technology Association of Iowa / Pratum Security

Government

[Kansas County Jail Inmates Receive Access to Tablets](#)

Inmates in Kansas have a new way to stay educated, entertained and in touch with their family members thanks to a recent partnership with a prison communications firm.

Source: Government Technology

[Resilience in Government](#)

Hear the stories and lessons learned from public sector IT leaders on how the cloud and AI are enhancing government services and helping to promote citizen well-being.

Source: State Scoop

Healthcare

[Study finds telehealth surge driven by behavioral health, chronic illness visits](#)

The largest increases in telemedicine visits during the COVID-19 pandemic were attributable to therapy and psychiatry visits and chronic illness visits.

Source: Fierce Health

[Top 10 telehealth stories of 2020](#)

The COVID-19 crisis prompted an enormous uptick in virtual care use from patients and providers – but it has also raised a number of questions about telehealth's security, accessibility and longevity.

Source: Healthcare IT News

[Labor Dept. Makes Telehealth a Permanent Option for FMLA Requests](#)

Federal officials have permanently extended an emergency order allowing employees to use telehealth to qualify for time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Source: mHealth Intelligence

Digital Divide

[Telemedicine Care Disparities Draw Concern For Health Equity](#)

Factors like age, language preferences, and median household income lead to disparities in telemedicine rates, drawing concern for health equity.

Source: mHealth Intelligence

[Study: Digital Platforms Can Help Ease Isolation for Seniors](#)

Recommendations include expanding efforts like the Callahan Center's program to loan low-income seniors ChromeBooks preloaded with internet plans and platforms including Zoom.

Source: Government Technology

Public Safety

[In challenging year, working with public safety to move FirstNet forward](#)

Find out key developments in 2020 as FirstNet worked together with public safety and the network contractor, AT&T to maximize its potential.

Source: Urgent Communications

[What is QPP? Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption](#)

Quality of Service: public safety can access the data they need when they need it

Priority: public safety devices gain access to the network first

Preemption: public safety devices are treated as the most important on the network

Source: FirstNet

Technology

[High-Tech Roads Are Powering Electric Cars, Sensors and More](#)

Projects explore new technologies which embed power generation, computing & more into paving,

opening up this right-of-way space to accommodate solar panels & smart city sensors.

Source: Government Technology

[The Tech That Will Invade Our Lives in 2021](#)

Spoiler: We're looking at another year of internet services dominating many aspects of our lives.

Source: New York Times

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to