



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



5 top women in tech history

Happy Women's History Month! Identifying female role models is critical in inspiring young women to pursue a career in technology. Information Age looks at five of some of the most famous and inspiring women role models in tech history.

Source: Information Age

Education

[New website aims to encourage interest and participation in STEM](#)

Connects youth, parents, educators and professionals to an online hub of high-quality STEM programs, resources and events in the Greater Omaha area.

Source: Silicon Prairie News

[Digital Art Education Tools Encourage Students' Creativity and Curiosity](#)

From virtual museum tours to Adobe creative suite software, these are the tools K12 educators are using to keep students engaged in art while distance learning.

Source: EdTech Focus on K-12

[AI @ IA: Five Ways Artificial Intelligence Powers Discovery at Iowa](#)

From forecasting floods to fighting cancer, Iowa researchers are deploying AI to tackle some of society's biggest issues.

Source: Iowa Center for Advancement

Digital Divide

[Emergency Broadband Benefit](#)

Acting FCC Chairwoman announced a new website where partners can sign up to share consumer information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, helping households struggling to pay for internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: FCC

[FCC to give low income families \\$50 a month for internet bills](#)

The money comes from the \$3.2 billion allocated by Congress as part of its COVID-19 relief bill to bring internet service for distance learning, work, and digital health care.

Source: Yahoo News

Technology

[LightEdge Brings First Interstate Internet Exchange Node to State of Iowa](#)

Internet Exchanges are able to offload traffic locally for faster content sharing speeds and reduced internet bandwidth.

Source: Lightedge

Government

[Experts Discuss Challenges of Voting in An Electronic Age](#)

Today, election administrators have many new options to improve the democratic process. But the system is complicated, and security concerns hover over everything.

Source: Government Technology

[Despite Security Concerns, Online Voting Advances](#)

In nine states, some jurisdictions have allowed voting via computer or app.

Source: GOVERNING

[Smart Work Zone Activity App \(SWiZAPP\) makes work zones work](#)

App users can capture and upload images from construction sites, use buttons within the app to indicate traffic conditions and lane activities, and/or using text messaging.

Source: Iowa State University

Public Safety

[AT&T's FirstNet responded to 750 requests in 2020](#)

The carrier added nearly 100,000 square miles to FirstNet in 2020. The network covers 99% of the U.S. population today, and more than 15,000 organizations have subscribed to FirstNet.

Source: Fierce Wireless

[The Future of Law Enforcement Relies On Connectivity and Mobile Solutions](#)

Law enforcement agencies are using new tech and mobile solutions to increase efficiency and improve situational awareness. Read how FirstNet plays a critical role in advancing public safety communications.

Source: Mission Critical

[How priority and preemption help public safety connect when they need it most](#)

Preemption is a mission-critical feature that allows FirstNet public safety subscribers to stay connected during emergencies or events where commercial networks can become congested.

Source: FirstNet

Healthcare

[Telehealth use remains strong in Cedar Rapids](#)

At UnityPoint Health locations across Iowa, telehealth visits rose from 6,700 before COVID-19 to more than 174,000 in the pandemic, officials stated.

Source: The Gazette

[The Role of Telehealth in Oncology Pharmacy Is Increasingly Important](#)

Virtual health services are demonstrating that telehealth can be just as effective as in-person visits with pharmacists.

Source: The Pharmacy Times

[Electronic Health Records May Be Delaying COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)

Disconnected systems require patients to formally request that their medical information be sent from one doctor's office to another.

Source: NPR

Cybersecurity

[Enable Firefox's 'Total Cookie Protection' for Less Web Tracking](#)

Each website gets its own “cookie jar,” to borrow Mozilla’s metaphor, and cookies live there; they can’t be shared with any other website.

Source: Lifehacker

[Alarming Cybersecurity Stats: What You Need To Know For 2021](#)

The need for better cyber-hygiene is evident from using stronger passwords, patching software, employing multi-factor authentication and many other important security steps.

Source: Forbes

[Security researcher recommends against LastPass after detailing 7 trackers](#)

LastPass isn’t the only password manager to include trackers like this, but it appears to have more than many popular competitors.

Source: Verge

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.