



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: May 5, 2022



Innovation at Work: Growing the 'Broadband Prairie' for smart agriculture, connected rural communities

With a \$16 million research project and a new Center for Wireless, Communities and Innovation, Iowa State is working to be a leader in developing advanced wireless technologies for affordable, universal, rural broadband.

Source: Iowa State University

ICN is a partner, along with others to support ISU in the development of the new testbed to study wireless technology to bridge the digital divide.

Iowa Focus

[Iowa Spends \\$1M to Train Computer Science Teachers](#)

To meet the state requirement that all public high schools must offer a semester of computer science starting this fall, the Iowa Department of Education has dispensed four grants to train more than 830 teachers.

Source: Government Technology

[Navigating the pathway to second chances](#)

Education in prisons is getting innovative with a new team that will provide support for student success and second chances.

Source: Iowa Dept of Education

Sector Focus

Government

[U.S. Digital Response launches new election program](#)

The effort will work on using open-source technologies to build products like poll-location search tools, election information websites and applications that help officials manage poll workers.

Source: StateScoop

[States and Cities are Moving to Make Virtual Hearings Permanent](#)

In the nation's statehouses and city halls, officials want remote meetings to outlast the Covid-19 crisis. Disability advocates are among those who support the idea. Others worry about the loss of in-person interactions and diminished oversight.

Source: Route Fifty

Healthcare

[Telehealth More Likely to Prompt Follow-up for Acute Conditions](#)

New research shows that telehealth appointments for acute conditions were more likely than in-person appointments to result in a follow-up visit.

Source: mHealth Intelligence

[Artificial Intelligence could turn your phone into a mobile health lab](#)

Google Health has introduced research projects that promise to turn smartphones into disease-screening tools.

Source: Digital Trends

Education

[CoderZ Helps Educators Build Their Own Coding Tournaments](#)

The company launched a “plug-and-play” curriculum tool for teachers to create local coding tournaments within or between school districts, helping students learn STEM skills.

Source: Center for Digital Education

Public Safety

[FirstNet Announces More Communications Tools](#)

A network enhancement makes it possible to send Push-To-Talk (PTT) voice, data, and video to multiple devices simultaneously (multicasting).

Source: All Things Firstnet

[FirstNet Supports Continuity of Operations in Maryland](#)

The nationwide public safety broadband network ensures local government leaders are able to stay connected and maintain operations in both rural and urban areas of the county.

Source: FirstNet

ICN is proud to partner with FirstNet in Iowa.

Cybersecurity

[Medical device cybersecurity: What to expect in 2022?](#)

In this survey, security experts from hundreds of medical device manufacturers were asked what their main challenges are and how they plan to address them in 2022, and beyond.

Source: Help Net Security

[Microsoft Ukraine Report Warns of Coming Zero-Day Exploits](#)

A zero-day is a computer-software vulnerability either unknown or known and without a patch to correct it. Until the vulnerability is mitigated, hackers can exploit it to adversely affect programs, data, additional computers or a network.

Source: Redmond Magazine

Digital Divide

[Will Partnerships Bring Digital Equity to Rural America?](#)

While infrastructure challenges and digital literacy gaps still impede digital equity efforts in many rural parts of America, public and private entities are increasingly looking to new partnerships to bridge the divide.

Source: Government Technology

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.