



# **BUILDING ON BROADBAND**

## Inspiring Progress.

### **Preliminary Conference Agenda**

Hosted by Blandin Foundation with support from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, the 2020 annual conference will take place October 12-14 virtually via Zoom.

#### **Tuesday, October 12**

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- 8:30 am      **Coffee and Conversation**  
Sign in early for networking and casual conversation with fellow attendees and conference planners
- 9:00            **Welcome and Tone Setting**  
Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation  
Tina May, Vice President of Rural Services and Chief of Staff to the CEO, Land O'Lakes
- 9:20            **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**
- 9:40            ***Digital Showcase: Closing the Opportunity Gap***  
A series of fast-moving presentations and demos by people from around the state and beyond who are using technology and the internet in innovative ways to improve lives and increase opportunity for all. Show, tell, and discussion. *Moderated by Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services*
- *Fostering Productive Conversations* - Kendra Jo Grindle, Senior Community Development Officer, Island Institute, Rockland, ME
  - *Overcoming Broadband Gaps in Rural Minnesota Communities* - Edward Hilbrich, Libraries Without Borders, Washington DC
  - *Sustainably Sourcing Digital Literacy Skill Services* - Joe Miller, Literacy Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
  - *Southcentral Minnesota Telehealth Portal* - Kristian Braekkan, Region Nine Development Commission, Mankato, MN
  - *Smart Cities and Streaming Television* - Abraham Levine, CEO, Brainware Partners
- 11:00          ***What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***  
**What are our greatest opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption in rural Minnesota?**  
Panel discussion of what rural leaders see as their region's greatest opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption. Based on input shared by participants in eight regional broadband gatherings across Minnesota between September 16 and October 6.
- 12:00 pm      **Adjourn**

## Wednesday, October 13

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- 8:30           **Coffee and Conversation**  
Sign in early for networking and casual conversation with fellow attendees and conference planners
- 9:00 am       **Welcome and Tone Setting**  
Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation  
Christopher Mitchell, Director, Community Broadband Networks initiative, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Minneapolis, MN
- 9:20           **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**
- 9:40           ***Getting it Done: Advocacy and Action***  
A series of fast-moving presentations about efforts across Minnesota to improve access and adoption and advocate for broadband investment. Presentation and Discussion. *Moderated by Bernadine Joselyn, Blandin Foundation*
- *Minnesota Broadband: Land of Ten Thousand Connectivity Solutions* - Ry Marcattilio-McCracken, Senior Researcher, Community Broadband Networks initiative, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Mankato, MN
  - *Workforce Movers in Rural Minnesota* - Benjamin Winchester, Rural Sociology Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, St. Cloud, MN
  - *Surveys, Data and Stories to Inform Policy and Investment* - Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services, St. Paul, MN with Ben Winchester
  - *Partnership for ConnectedMN: A Community-Responsive, Public-Private Partnership* - Anne Hoyt Taff, Associate Vice President of Community Impact, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation; and Hussein Farah, founder and executive director, New Visions Foundation
- 10:40         ***So What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***  
**How can rural Minnesota communities realize their greatest broadband opportunities?**  
*Moderated by Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors*  
A panel of broadband advocates and supporters responds to a summary of what actions rural participants in eight regional broadband gatherings across Minnesota this fall 1) commit to do to get better broadband, and 2) think would help boost their efforts.
- Tarryl Clark, Commissioner, Stearns County
  - Angie Dickison, Executive Director, MN DEED Office of Broadband Development
  - Brian Krambeer, President/CEO, MiEnergy Co-op
  - Benya Kraus, Executive Director, Lead for Minnesota
  - Bree Maki, Broadband and Regional Field Rep., Office of Senator Tina Smith
  - Dave Schornack, Director of Business Development and Sales, Arvig
  - Jay Trusty, Executive Director, Southwest Regional Development Commission
- 11:35         **Break**
- 11:45         ***Broadband Project Development***  
*Moderated by Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors*
- 1:00 pm       **Adjourn**

## Thursday, October 14

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8:30 am **Coffee and Conversation**

Sign in early for networking and casual conversation with fellow attendees and conference planners

9:00 **Welcome and Tone Setting**

Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation  
Mark Ritchie, President, Global Minnesota

9:25 **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**

9:40 **Reflections on *Farm Fresh Broadband: The Politics of Rural Connectivity***

Dr. Christopher Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Media Studies, University of Virginia; *Introduced by Adrienne B. Furniss, Executive Director, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society*

In his new book, Professor Ali offers an analysis of the failure of U.S. broadband policy to solve the rural–urban digital divide and a proposal for a building a better broadband future. Ali will describe what it would look like to create a multistakeholder system, guided by thoughtful public policy and funded by public and private support.

10:00 ***Staying Inspired: Spreading What Works***

Speed-story-telling by people working to bring the benefits of broadband to families, businesses and communities in rural Minnesota. Show, Tell, and Discussion. *Moderated by Jane Leonard, Growth and Justice*

- *Cannon Roots Local Foods Initiative* - Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Development Specialist, CEDA (Community & Economic Development Associates)
- *Le Sueur County Blandin Broadband Community* - Barbara Droher Kline, Le Sueur County Blandin Broadband Community
- *Bringing Digital Marketing Concepts to Rural Areas* - Molly Solberg, Molly Solberg Marketing, Duluth, MN
- *Healthcare Innovations* - Liz Dean, Riverwood Health Center, Aitkin, MN
- *Education Innovations* – Zach Pruitt, Executive Director, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative

11:10 ***Now What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***  
**Next steps for Minnesota's regions**

Based on what we have heard in broadband convenings across the state, regional leaders discuss priorities for their region and the state for improving broadband access and adoption, and what we can do together to advance these priorities.

12:00 pm **Adjourn**



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STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

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