Preliminary Schedule

Hosted by Blandin Foundation with support from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, the 2020 annual conference will be disbursed over the month of October and take place virtually via Zoom.

**Monday, October 5**
TBD Learning Cohort Introductions

**Tuesday, October 6**

9:00 Welcome

9:30 *Digital Showcase*
A series of fast-moving presentations and demos by people from around the state who are using technology and the internet in innovative ways. Hear what they have to say and ask your questions!

11:20 Wrap-up and Adjourn

Evening Networking Activity To-Be-Announced

**Wednesday, October 7**
Welcome Minnesota Governor’s Task Force on Broadband!

9:00 Welcome

9:20 Border-to-Border Broadband Development Fund Grantee Presentations
Hear about how Minnesota broadband grants impacted communities

10:20 Breakout Sessions with Task Force Subcommittees

10:45 Report Back and Task Force Thank You

11:00 *From Digital Infrastructure to Transformation: Leveraging Broadband for Community Economic Development* by Roberto Gallardo, Ph.D., Director, Purdue Center for Regional Development; and C&RE Specialist, Purdue Extension, W Lafayette, IN
This presentation will discuss some digital applications and uses to help communities leverage this technology to improve their quality of lives.

12:00 Wrap-up and Adjourn
Thursday, October 8
9:00 Welcome and Mentor Matchmaking Process Introductions
9:30 Bringing Broadband to Rural America: Opportunities and Challenges Post-Pandemic by Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, Arlington, VA

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown not only how important broadband is for all Americans, but it has also presented an opportunity to help fuel a rural renaissance with the creation of more Smart Rural Communities. This presentation will focus on the opportunities that broadband can bring to rural communities and the challenges that exist in bringing broadband to rural America.

10:45 Mentor Session I
11:20 Mentor Session II
11:45 Wrap-Up and Adjourn

October 12-23
Two weeks of optional, elective opportunities to learn, connect, and engage with broadband stakeholders from around the state and nation. The schedule of activities will be announced.

Join conference organizers and the hosts-for-the-day for Digital Office Hours weekdays from 11am-1pm. Grab lunch and drop-in via Zoom for informal conversation and networking.

Tuesday, October 27
9:00 Welcome
9:30 Connecting Residents to Essential Services: Solutions for Local Communities by Deb Socia, President and CEO, The Enterprise Center, Chattanooga, TN

During the presentation, Deb will share creative problem-solving strategies for connecting residents to essential services. She will review The Enterprise Center’s digital inclusion program and the unique interventions her organization was able to help put in place to help connect residents to tele-health, education, work from home, recovery services, faith based supports, and mental health care.

10:35 Open Space Idea Generation
What do YOU want to learn more about and discuss? Bring your ideas and generate new ideas in small groups – the discussions will take place Wednesday.

11:45 Wrap-Up and Adjourn
Wednesday, October 28
9:00   Welcome
9:20   Open Space Discussions I
9:50   Report Back to Group
10:05  Open Space Discussions II
10:35  Report Back to Group
10:45  Intentionally Left Blank

*One goal of the conference is to learn how to best use the tools, to experiment, to be responsive to what tactics work best and what topics are of top concern. Based on feedback given throughout the conference, evaluation from attendees, and experiential lessons, we will create content for this timeslot after the conference begins.*

11:45  Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Thursday, October 29
9:00   Welcome
9:15   Keynote Presentation

*Special Presenter To-Be-Announced*
10:30  Minnesota Broadband Update
11:00  Learning Cohort Breakouts and Feedback
11:30  Closing Words
12:00  Adjourn