



BROADBAND 2020

Connected We Stand

Conference 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

12-1:00 pm **Office Hours**

Drop in between noon and 1pm to chat, ask questions, or for Zoom orientation

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 am 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!

- Panel I: PCs for People, Winona Friendship Center, Kairos Alive!
- Panel II: Libraries, MN Children's Press Story Scouts, Wolf Creek Online High School
- Panel III: GigaZone Gaming, Precision Agriculture, Telehealth

11:20 Wrap-up and Adjourn

4:30 pm Networking Get Together

Wednesday, October 7

Welcome Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Broadband!

9:00 am Welcome

9:20 ***Border-to-Border Broadband Development Fund Grantee Presentations***

Hear about how Minnesota broadband grants impacted Melrose and Rock County

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 pm Wrap-up and Adjourn

Thursday, October 8

- 9:00 am Welcome
- 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.

Weekdays:

- 11 am – 1 pm ***Digital Office Hours*** with conference organizers and hosts-for-the-day
Grab lunch and drop-in via Zoom for informal conversation and networking.
- 1 – 1:45 pm ***Broadband 101***
These sessions will improve community leaders' ability to make smart decisions and create partnerships to deliver wired and wireless broadband technologies

Thursday, October 15

- 3 – 4:00 pm ***Federal Broadband Regulatory and Legislative Updates*** by Molly O'Leary, Director of Government Affairs, NTCA
- 4:30 – 6:00 **Networking Happy Hour**

Tuesday, October 27

- 9:00 am Welcome

- 9:30 ***Connecting Residents to Essential Services: Solutions for Local Communities*** by Deb Socia, President and CEO, The Enterprise Center, Chattanooga, TN
Hear about 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 am 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
- 4:30 pm Closing Reception

Thursday, October 29

- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:15 ***How I Think About the Importance of Communities in the 21st Century*** by Thomas L. Friedman, Author, Reporter, Columnist, New York Times
- 10:30 ***2020 MN County Broadband Reports: Measured Progress, Accelerated Need*** by Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services
- 11:00 Breakouts and Feedback
- 11:30 Closing Words
- 12:00 pm Adjourn



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