

Minneapolis Marriott West  
November 18-20, 2015

**#mnbroadband**



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## Greetings!

We are excited to welcome you to Blandin Foundation's 12th annual statewide broadband conference, *Border to Border Broadband: Better Together*. Our theme this year – Better Together – captures the challenge we face as a state: ensuring high-speed broadband access and the skills to use it for all Minnesotans, regardless of zip code or income. This is a task that none of us can do alone... to build the broadband-enabled future we all want for our children and grandchildren we have to work together. We are the answer. It's up to us to get this done.

And that's what this conference is all about. Here you will have a chance to advocate for the broadband future you want to see for the generations to follow. In addition to a series of sessions devoted to articulating our collective vision for Minnesota's broadband future, you will find the agenda packed with presentations on a wide range of timely broadband-related topics relevant to meeting the broadband challenges we face as a state. You will hear from Lt. Governor Tina Smith, as well as from state legislators and the Department of Employment and Economic Development's Office of Broadband Development. A special treat will be hearing from a group of American Indian youth – hailing from Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and Leech Lake – about how a broadband-enabled economy and society can help their dreams come true.

Thank you for joining us and your fellow broadband advocates at this conference. We are confident you will find the agenda and the company worth your time and attention.

To quote William Gibson, "The future is already here. It just isn't yet very evenly distributed."

Let's get to work on that.

~Bernadine Joselyn

Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation  
*On behalf of the conference planning team*



Blandin Foundation™  
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

# Agenda at a Glance

## Wednesday, November 18

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**12:00**      **Registration Opens**

**1:30-4:30**   **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Intro to Community Broadband** (Galway B)
- **Digital Inclusion Strategies** (Waterford 3)

**1:30-9:00**   **Digital Storytelling Workshop** (Donegal) *Invitation Only*

*Conference participants are invited to drop by, say 'hi', and check out the students in action.*

**6:00-8:00**   **Drop-in Welcome Reception** (Waterford 1-2)

## Thursday, November 19

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**8:00**      **Breakfast Buffet** (Waterford 1-2)

**8:30**      **Welcome** by Bernadine Joselyn

**8:40**      **Digital Storytelling Show and Tell**

**9:10**      **Who's Here, and Why?**

**9:30**      **Keynote - Large as Life: How Fiber Will Turn Our World Upside Down**, by Prof. Susan Crawford

**10:30**      **Break**

**10:45**      **A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session I: Developing our Shared Vision**

**11:45**      **Lunch** *with remarks from:*

- Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben, MN Department of Employment & Economic Dev.
- Margaret Anderson Kelliher, President, MHTA; Chair, Governor's Task Force on Broadband
- Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development

**1:25**      **Best of the Blandin Broadband Communities: Local Leadership Matters**

**2:30**      **A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session II: Bringing our Vision to Life**

**3:25**      **Break – Exhibit Hall Opens** (Waterford 3)

**4:15**      **A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session III: Reviewing our Work** (Waterford 1-2)

**4:45**      **Closing Thoughts for the Day**

**5:00**      **Adjourn**

**4:30-6:00** *Optional Session: Real Life Examples: CTC's partnerships with Government, School Districts and Other Entities Hosted by Consolidated Telephone Company (Donegal)*

**6:00-8:30** **Exhibitor Reception** (Waterford 3)

## **Friday, November 20**

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**7:15-9:00** **Broadband Builders Breakfast** (Waterford 1-2)

**8:00** **Welcome** by Dr. Kathleen Annette

**8:15** **Remarks by Congressman Rick Nolan**

**8:30** **The State of Broadband in Minnesota** by Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith

**9:00** **Breakout Sessions - Round I**

- **Fueling Innovation via Gigabit Broadband** (Donegal A)
- **Forming Successful Broadband Partnerships** (Donegal B)
- **Youth and Community Engagement - Use of Video and Storytelling** (Donegal C)

**9:45** **Break**

**10:00** **Breakout Sessions - Round II**

- **Fueling Innovation via Creative Spaces** (Donegal A)
- **Co-ops and Broadband Deployment** (Donegal B)
- **Moving Your Community Up the Technology Adoption Ladder** (Donegal C)

**10:45** **Break**

**11:00** **A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session IV: Moving the Vision Forward** (Waterford 1-2)

**11:55** **Lunch**

**12:15** **Legislative Policy Panel: Responding to the Vision / Preparing for the Legislative Session**

**12:50** **Senator Al Franken**

**1:15** **Adjourn**

# Program

## Wednesday, November 18

*Concurrent Preconference Sessions*

**1:30-4:30**

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Donegal B

### **Intro to Community Broadband**

Facilitated by Bill Coleman, Principal, Community Technology Advisors

Speakers: Albert Kangas, COO, Palmer Wireless

Dave Russell, Solutions Marketing Director, Calix

Paul Solsrud, Product Manager, Cooperative Network Services

**Bill Coleman** helps communities make the connection between telecommunications and economic development. As owner of Community Technology Advisors since 2000, he assists community, foundation and corporate clients to develop and implement programs of broadband policy, infrastructure and market development. Earlier in his career, Bill managed Onvoy's (now Zayo) Integrated Community Network rural market development efforts and staffed the MN Department of Trade and Economic Development Star City and Business Retention and Expansion Programs.

Bill participates in his own community by leading TEDxMahtomedi, serving on the board of the nonprofit PCs for People and as a member of the Mahtomedi Community Education Advisory Council.

**Albert Kangas** started his 27 year career in wireless communications in 1988 with Northwest Cellular in Appleton WI and subsequently went on to accept the role of Director of Network Engineering and Operations at St. Cloud Wireless Holdings in St. Cloud MN. Under his leadership the network and department expanded from a single employee and a small network of 8 wireless sites to a department of 30 employees and over 400 wireless sites supporting 200,000 subscribers.

Today, Albert is the COO of NewCore Wireless based in St. Cloud MN. NewCore Wireless is a full service hosted switching company that performs 2G, 3G and 4G switching functions for wireless carriers that do not own and operate their own switching platform. Albert and his wife Laura are part owners of Palmer Wireless, a local communications company in central Minnesota that supports over 3,000 broadband customers using a combination of 3G and 4G wireless solutions and fiber to the premise.

**David Russell**, Solutions Marketing Director, is responsible for marketing Calix' fiber access solutions, the most widely deployed Fiber-to-the-Premises systems in North America. David has spent over twenty years in business development and marketing of broadband access systems. David holds 8 patents in broadband technologies. Between 2008 and 2010 David served on the Board of the Fiber-to-the-Home Council. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota and works out of the Calix fiber development facility in the Twin Cities.

**Paul Solsrud** is Product Manager for Cooperative Network Services. With over 12 years' experience in the rural Independent telecommunication industry, Paul has been a key player in a wide variety of telecom projects. Most recently in assisting in the development of collaborative back-office service offerings for 20 telecommunication cooperatives in Minnesota. Paul is active in the MN Telecom Alliance trade association as chairman of the Marketing Peer Group, and member of the Video committee.

Waterford 3

## Digital Inclusion Strategies

Facilitated by Ann Treacy, Owner, Treacy Information Services

Speaker: Elise Ebhardt, Interagency Coordinator, Tech Literacy Collaborative

Angie Willardson, Employment Technology Manager, Project for Pride in Living (PPL)

**Ann Treacy** authors and manages the Blandin on Broadband blog. She has worked on broadband issues since 1994 – both supporting deployment of broadband and helping people and businesses better use broadband through digital inclusion training and online marketing consulting. Ann has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science as well as a Master’s in Literature. You can learn more at [www.byteoftheweek.com](http://www.byteoftheweek.com).

**Elise Ebhardt** works in the City of Minneapolis Information Technology department as an interagency coordinator focusing on digital inclusion and community technology needs and resources. Elise is passionate about networking and building relationships and is an active member of digital inclusion and community technology groups in the area, committed to sharing best practices, advocating for technology and digital literacy skills and access, and promoting collaborative efforts. Elise has a BA in Child Psychology with a minor in Political Science from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

**Angie Willardson**, Employment Technology Manager, has been with Project for Pride in Living for six years, serving first as an AmeriCorps VISTA member and then as Manager for Employment Technology at PPL’s Learning Center. She manages the Computer Access Lab, computer and professional development workshop programming and onsite employment coaching services, ensuring participants connect to broad employment services and increase their digital literacy skills. She also oversees STEP-UP and PETH summer youth work-readiness trainings. Angie holds an MA in Nonprofit Management.

### Show and Tell Sessions:

- **Fond du Lac Ojibwe School:** “So you want to be a Key punch Operator?” ...explore the evolution of the digital world...past, present, and future. *With Charles Hilliard, Technology/eLearning Coordinator*
- **MVTV Wireless:** MVTV Wireless is currently working in partnership with Nobles Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) and Blandin Foundation to implement a free Public Internet Access hotspot network within 9 Nobles county townships. *With Julie Foote, Market Dev and Sales*
- **Open Twin Cities:** Open Twin Cities is an organization fostering civic technology and open government in the Twin Cities area. *With Bill Bushey, Co-Founder and Lead Organizer*
- **PCs for People:** “PCs for Kids – Addressing the Homework Gap.” This session will outline PCs for People’s concerted efforts to address the homework gap created by a lack of broadband access and the necessary devices get online. *With Sam Drong, Program Director*
- **Project FINE:** “Best Practices for Technology Training with Diverse Populations.” *With Fatima Said, Executive Director*
- **Red Wing Ignite:** Red Wing Ignite is a nonprofit located in Red Wing Minnesota. We advance innovation technology and entrepreneurs by bringing together like-minded individuals to create a unique ecosystem. The organization has resources, networks and needed expertise for students, startups and businesses to succeed. *With Neela Mollgaard, Executive Director*



- **Ridgewater College:** “Creating a Technology Culture in Kandiyohi County.” Ridgewater College is a part of the Rural Information Technology Alliance (RITA) funded by a Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant. RITA’s goal is to improve rural technology education at the Community College level. We realized early on that while our students were getting a good education in information technology, they were not connected to the local burgeoning tech community. Through Hack20 and other events we are working to change that and to create a tech culture in a rural area. *With Larry Handlin, RITA Grant Coordinator*
- **St. Paul Neighborhood Network:** “Problem Solving around Digital Inclusion: CTEP’s Community Action Projects.” Each year 35 AmeriCorps members in the Community Technology Empowerment Project, a department of the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network, create community action projects that help bridge the digital divide. In the past, CTEP AmeriCorps members have taught teens coding and digital storytelling techniques, created city-wide digital scavenger hunts, and provided computer classes for ex-convicts, among dozens of other projects. Learn how these creative projects push Twin Cities institutions to collaborate on digital literacy and to invest in technology education. *With Lisa Peterson-de la Cueva, Program Coordinator*
- **Visual, Inc.:** “Virtual Reality is Here.” Learn how this new medium opens up a world of new experiences with your smartphone. Try mobile VR on a Google Cardboard or Samsung Gear VR to get a taste of where media is going. *With Chuck Olsen, Founder*
- **Winona Friendship Center:** “Masters in Aging: Knowing & Showing You How to Age Right.” In this workshop you will see and hear about innovative broadband-enhanced ways to help isolated older adult stay active, involved in your community, and aging well. *With Malia Fox, Director*



Waterford 1-2

**6:00-8:00 Drop-in Welcome Reception**

Donegal Room

### **Digital Storytelling Workshop**

*During the reception, conference participants also are invited to drop by the Digital Storytelling Workshop where youth from Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, Leech Lake Boys & Girls Club, Nay-Ah-Shing School and Onamia School are learning about and using free online applications for telling their own stories, and the stories of their culture and communities.*





## Thursday, November 19

Waterford 1-2

### 8:00 Breakfast Buffet

### 8:30 Welcome

Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation

**Bernadine Joselyn** directs Blandin Foundation's Public Policy and Engagement program area, where she leads efforts to catalyze community action that advances community goals. A native of Minnesota, Bernadine spent the first 15 years of her professional life in Soviet (and then post-Soviet) Affairs. She served seven years as diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, where — after an initial tour in New Delhi, India — she was assigned to Moscow, Russia, and Washington, D.C., focused on the U.S.-Soviet/Russian relationship. After the collapse of the Soviet Union Bernadine left the diplomatic corps to work on international academic and cultural exchange programs with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) and subsequently the Eurasia Foundation, overseeing a \$5 million annual grant program.



In 2000 Bernadine returned to Minnesota to complete a master's degree in public affairs at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute. She also earned a master's degree in international security policy and certificate in advanced studies from Columbia University.

### 8:40

#### Digital Storytelling Show and Tell

Youth share their experience and learning from Wednesday's Digital Storytelling workshop.

Moderated by Frank Odasz, Lone Eagle Consulting

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School:** Jacob Ammesmaki, Mary Ammesmaki, Dakota Barney, Brea Hoagland, Michael Sayers, Quintana White

**Leech Lake Boys and Girls Club:** Steven Bruce, Alivia Christopherson, Amber Headbird, Keith Howard, Dedrick LaDuke, Dacia Staples, Ramona White, Donavin Wittner

#### Nay-Ah-Shing High School

**Onamia School:** Deilyah Dexter, KC Merrill, Aiyanna Mitchell, Bella Nayquonabe, Megan Saboo, Madison Sam



**Frank Odasz** is secretary of the Rural Telecommunications Congress and president of Lone Eagle Consulting. Based out of Montana, Frank has specialized in rural, remote and indigenous Internet learning since 1997. Lone Eagle's grassroots adventures range from delivering the first Internet workshops to 11 Alaska Native villages in 1998 to presenting rural broadband training best practices for the 21 economies of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC International Conferences). Recent online courses include teaching digital entrepreneurship as 21st-century workforce readiness. Recent articles for

Broadband Communities Magazine: The Challenge for Mass Innovation <http://lone-eagles.com/mass-innovation.pdf>; The Silver Tsunami <http://lone-eagles.com/silver-tsunami.pdf>; Digitizing Alaska <http://lone-eagles.com/digitizing-alaska.pdf>



**9:30**

### **Large as Life: How Fiber Will Turn our World Upside Down**

Susan Crawford, Professor, Harvard Law School

*Introduced by* Christopher Mitchell, Institute for Local Self Reliance

*Discussion to follow.*

**Susan Crawford** is a professor at Harvard Law School where she teaches Internet law and communications law, and a co-director of the Berkman Center. She is the author of Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age, co-author of The Responsive City: Engaging Communities Through Data-Smart Governance, and a contributor to Medium.com's Backchannel. Susan served as Special Assistant to the President for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (2009) and co-led the FCC transition team between the Bush and Obama administrations. She also served as a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Advisory Council on Technology and Innovation and is now a member of Mayor Bill de Blasio's Broadband Task Force. From 2005-2008 she was a member of the board of directors of ICANN and is the founder of OneWebDay, a global Earth Day for the internet that takes place each Sept 22. One of Politico's 50 Thinkers, Doers and Visionaries Transforming Politics in 2015; one of Fast Company's Most Influential Women in Technology (2009); IP3 Awardee (2010); one of Prospect Magazine's Top Ten Brains of the Digital Future (2011); and one of TIME Magazine's Tech 40: The Most Influential Minds in Tech (2013). Ms. Crawford received her B.A. and J.D. from Yale University. Susan lives in New York City and Cambridge, MA.



**10:30      Break**

**10:45**

### **A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session I: Developing our Shared Vision**

Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation

Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development

Following a presentation illustrating the current state of broadband networks in Minnesota vis-à-vis Minnesota's goals, national and global comparisons, participants will begin the process of articulating a shared vision for the broadband network Minnesota needs to ensure a vibrant prosperous economy and quality of life for all.

## 11:45 Lunch

Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben, MN Department of Employment & Economic Development  
Margaret Anderson Kelliher, President, MHTA; Chair, Governor's Task Force on Broadband  
Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development

*During lunch we will hear from three leaders involved in the development, support, and implementation of broadband policies and programs in Minnesota. We will learn about their different roles, what they are working on right now, and about success stories from this work.*

**Katie Clark Sieben** was appointed Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) in October 2012, leading an agency of 1,500 employees dedicated to growing Minnesota's economy and building and strengthening a world-class workforce. Under her leadership, DEED has partnered with communities and businesses, driving new business growth and greater opportunities for workers across the state.

Prior to serving as Commissioner, Sieben served as Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office at DEED, focusing on the promotion of the state of Minnesota and its companies in the global marketplace, the introduction of Minnesota companies to foreign buyers and investors and the building of diplomatic relationships with international businesses and governments.

Sieben brings years of leadership experience in the private sector, including with one of Minnesota's largest corporations, Target Corporation, and a start-up business, National Wind. She has managed large-scale, multi-million dollar initiatives, and built strategic partnerships at the highest levels of business and philanthropy.

An Alumnus of the University of Minnesota, Sieben serves on the University of Minnesota Carlson School Global Institute Advisory Board and the University of Minnesota Office for Technology Commercialization Board. She also serves on the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Advisory Board.

Sieben was the recipient of the 2012 MSP Business Journal's "Forty Under 40" Award, the MSP Business Journal's "13 People to Watch in 2013" and the Minnesota Business Magazine's "Real Power 50" Award in 2014.



**Margaret Anderson Kelliher** is the President and CEO of the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA). Together with the association's 300 member companies and organizations, Margaret works to fuel Minnesota's prosperity through innovation and technology.

Prior to MHTA, Margaret served in the Minnesota legislature, including two terms as Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Margaret chairs Governor Dayton's Broadband Task Force, as well as the Minnesota Ballpark Authority Board of Commissioners. In 2014, she was elected vice chair of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Board of Trustees. Margaret teaches at the University of Minnesota's

Humphrey School of Public Affairs and serves on the Greater Twin Cities United Way, the Textile Center of Minnesota and the Minnesota Regenerative Medicine Boards of Directors.

Margaret graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Gustavus Adolphus College. She earned her Master's in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Danna MacKenzie** joined the State of Minnesota in January 2014 to head up the new Office of Broadband Development, which is housed within the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. As Executive Director, MacKenzie leads broadband strategy and program development efforts within the state and provides support to both the Governor's Subcabinet on Broadband and the Governor's Task Force on Broadband. MacKenzie currently oversees the execution of the state's Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Incentive fund that was approved during the 2014 and 2015 legislative cycles.



Prior to joining the Office, MacKenzie served as technology director for Cook County, Minnesota for 17 years. One of the roles she held there was administrator for the Cook County Broadband Commission, which was instrumental in bringing fiber to the home to rural Cook County. During these years she also served as a member of the Blandin Foundation Broadband Strategy Board, focusing on connectivity and broadband use throughout rural Minnesota.

**1:00      Break**



**1:25**

### **Best of the Blandin Broadband Communities: Local Leadership Matters**

Moderated by Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation

*Speakers:* Nancy Hoffman, Executive Director, Chisago County HRA / EDA

Kay Wruke, County Recorder, Martin County

Tom Johnson, County Administrator, Nobles County

Neela Mollgaard, Executive Director, Red Wing Ignite

Amanda Outhoudt, Economic Dev. Director, City of Elk River (Sherburne County)

Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator, Sherburne County

**Nancy Hoffman** has been in the Economic Development field for over 20 years working with rural and suburban cities, regional development commissions and counties. Since July 2012 she has served as the Executive Director for the Chisago County HRA/EDA. Nancy has been actively involved in statewide economic development associations including as past Chair of the Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED) and past board member and Legislative Committee member of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM). She holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Mankato State University. Nancy sits on the Blandin Broadband Strategy Advisory Committee and the Workforce Investment Board of the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Council.

**Kay Wrucke** is the Martin County Recorder in Fairmont, Minnesota. She chairs the Minnesota Official Multiple Systems, a statewide marriage and veteran index, and serves on the Minnesota Electronic Real Estate Recording Commission. Kay has actively worked with Minnesota counties, real estate business partners, and state agencies on legislative issues pertaining to county services, fees and service development. Kay is a past president of the MN County Recorder's Association, the MN Association of County Officers, and the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks, and the Property Records Industry Association. Kay earned a BS degree from Minnesota State University in Social Science and History.

**Tom Johnson** is the County Administrator for Nobles County and Chairs NEON (Nobles Economic Opportunity Network), a group representing the county, school districts, townships, cities, public utilities, watersheds and economic development within Nobles County. NEON was formed in 2013 and quickly defined broadband as a top priority. In 2015 Nobles County became a Blandin Broadband Community, and Tom provides leadership to this work.

Tom has deep experience in leadership, project planning and management, continuous improvement and is a strong advocate of local government and cross-sector collaboration. He sits on several boards and advisory committees in Nobles County including the Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation, United Way, Joint Powers Transit Authority, Buffalo Ridge Regional Transit Authority, and serves as Chair of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and the Emergency Management Planning Advisory Committee.

Tom earned an undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Minnesota - Duluth and a master's degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of St. Thomas.

**Neela Mollgaard** is the Executive Director of Red Wing Ignite. Red Wing Ignite is a non-profit advancing innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. When Red Wing became a partner of US Ignite, Neela was part of a dedicated group that developed and launched the non-profit.

Neela has over 20 years of experience in corporate and non-profit organizations. She has led the creation of initiatives in both the business sector and within communities. She is founder and chair of Women Cents, a non-profit that serves children and families. Neela also serves on the Jones Family Foundation Board of Directors and the Governor's Task Force on Broadband.

**Amanda Othoudt** is the Economic Development Director for the City of Elk River where she has contributed to great successes with City development projects, business outreach, and expansion, helping to attract nearly \$24 million in private investment to the community. Amanda earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. Cloud State University in Planning and Community Development, with a double minor in Economics and Heritage Preservation.

**Dan Weber** has been with Sherburne County since 2012, serving as County Assessor and Economic Development Specialist before becoming Assistant Administrator in 2014. Dan also has held positions with Wright County as a Property Appraiser, and with Kanabec County as a County Assessor and County Coordinator/Personnel Director. Dan is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a B.S. in Human Resource Management and a minor in Human Relations.





**2:30**

**A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session II: Bringing our Vision to Life**

Building on work accomplished in Vision Session I, participants will explore together: What do we need for networks? What tools do we need? How do we incent the investment we need? And what key questions or principles should decision-makers keep in mind?

**3:25        Exhibitor Quick Pitch**

Waterford 3

**3:30        Break – Exhibit Hall Opens**

Waterford 1-2

**4:15**

**A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session III: Bringing our Vision to Life**

Conference participants review and have a conversations about their work, in preparation for Friday's "Moving the Vision Forward Session."

**4:45        Closing Thoughts for the Day**

Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation

**5:00        Adjourn**



Donegal Room

**4:30-6:00    *Optional Session***

**Real Life Examples: CTC's Partnerships with Government, School Districts and Other Entities**

Hosted by Consolidated Telephone Company



Waterford 3

**6:00-8:30    Exhibitor Reception**

Join us in the Exhibit Room for food, drinks and networking.

*Optional late-night camaraderie – Kip's Irish Pub and Restaurant*



## Friday, November 20

Waterford 1-2

### 7:15-9:00 Broadband Builders Breakfast

*Join us as we say thank you to those who have stepped up to provide Minnesotans with the connectivity they need to participate and thrive in the 21st century. State and federal leaders will share initiatives that are underway to help support this important work. Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith, along with DEED's Office of Broadband Development will announce the 2015 Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant awards.*

### 8:00 Welcome

Dr. Kathleen Annette, President and CEO, Blandin Foundation



A lifelong resident of rural Minnesota and president and CEO of Blandin Foundation for the past four years, **Dr. Kathleen Annette** is a recognized leader at local, regional and national levels.

Kathy grew up on the Red Lake Indian Reservation and is enrolled with White Earth Band of Ojibwe. She is a graduate of University of Minnesota, where she received both her medical and undergraduate degrees. She is the first woman in the Minnesota Ojibwe Nation to become a physician.

Kathy retired from federal service after 26 distinguished years, having served as deputy director of field operations of Indian Health Service, based in Bemidji, Minn.--supervision and leadership of Area Directors across the United States serving 48 hospitals and 238 health clinics serving 1.9 million American Indian patients, and 15,000 federal employees.

Today, Kathy leads the Blandin Foundation in standing with rural Minnesota communities and leaders as they design and claim ambitious, vibrant futures. In her travels throughout the state, Kathy has witnessed the power of local leadership on issues most important to rural Minnesota communities—including broadband.

Founded in 1941, Blandin Foundation is the state's largest rural-based private foundation and one of only a handful nationally focused exclusively on strengthening rural communities. The Foundation awards grants, trains community leaders and engages communities throughout rural Minnesota and especially in the Grand Rapids area.

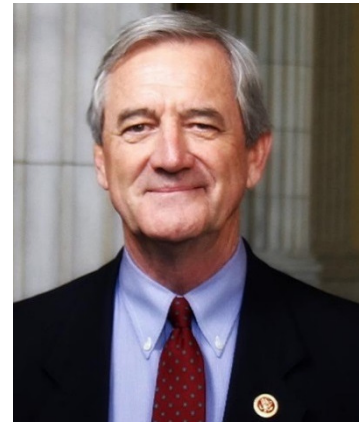


**8:15**

**Remarks by Congressman Rick Nolan**

*Introduced by Dr. Kathleen Annette, President and CEO, Blandin Foundation*

**Representative Rick Nolan** represents Minnesota's 8th Congressional District. He serves on both the House Transportation and Infrastructure and House Agriculture Committees. After serving three terms in the late 1970's, Nolan returned to Congress in 2013 after more than 32 years in domestic and international business and community work. Nolan introduced the Rural Broadband Initiative Act (H.R. 3152) to centralize key rural broadband grant and loan programs under one Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With a new Under-Secretary appointed by the President, the office would administer roughly \$724 million in rural broadband grant and loan programs. Regulations would be streamlined, and local and state governments would have a one-stop shop for help in connecting their areas. Just as importantly, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would have a central information clearinghouse to help them better utilize some \$4.5 billion in federal resources specifically targeted to expand broadband to rural areas.



**8:30**

**The State of Broadband in Minnesota**

**Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith** will announce the 2015 Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant awardees, acknowledge the work that has already been done by broadband builders in Minnesota, and take a look into the future on where the discussion might go over the next several months.

*Introduced by Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development*



**Tina Smith** is Minnesota's 48th Lt. Governor. Tina is focused on building an economy that works for all Minnesotans, everywhere in the state. She is a champion for issues including rural broadband internet access, expanding access to early learning, and supporting statewide job creation.

Since taking office in January 2015, Tina has visited more than 60 communities across the state. She is committed to taking the concerns expressed by Minnesotans back to St. Paul, and serving as a fierce advocate for all Minnesotans at the State Capitol.

Before being elected Lt. Governor, Tina served as Governor Dayton's Chief of Staff. She led Minnesota's Better Government Initiative to make government work better – speeding up business permitting, making government documents and forms easier to understand, and saving taxpayer money through efficient, customer-friendly services.

Tina moved to Minnesota in 1983 for a job at General Mills. She later left General Mills to start her own business. Tina has a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She also worked in Prudhoe Bay on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline, before college.



## 9:00 Breakout Sessions – Round I or Exhibits

Galway A

### **Fueling Innovation via Gigabit Broadband**

Broadband is the means; innovation is the ends. Learn how communities in Minnesota and across the USA are leveraging fiber networks to create and support economic and community development.

Moderated by William Wallace, Executive Director, US Ignite

*Speakers:* Mark Erickson, EDA Director, City of Winthrop / RS Fiber

Neela Mollgaard, Executive Director, Red Wing Ignite

Sheila Haverkamp, Executive Director, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp.

Galway B

### **Forming Successful Broadband Partnerships**

Extending quality broadband to underserved and unserved communities often requires multiple partners to fill various roles in finance, operations, and ownership. Learn how your community can make smart decisions and create a successful partnership.

Moderated by Milda Hedblom, Consultant, Lawyer, Professor; Dain Consulting; Augsburg College

*Speakers:* Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development

Dan Pecarina, President and CEO, Hiawatha Broadband

Shannon Sweeney, David Drown Associates, Inc.

Galway C

### **Youth and Community Engagement - Use of Video and Storytelling**

As the first digital generation, young people can be a resource for creativity, capable of helping all citizens connect with appropriate broadband empowerment tools and resources. Learn how anyone can easily create and share online videos to tell stories, preserve culture, and more. Learn how rural communities can work together to begin sharing new discoveries and innovations.

Presented by: Frank Odasz, Lone Eagle Consulting



## 9:45 Break



## 10:00 Breakout Sessions – Round II or Exhibits

Galway A

### **Fueling Innovation via Creative Spaces**

Learn how to build an innovative community culture by creating a physical space where technologists, engineers, financiers and entrepreneurs can launch new ideas, applications and companies.

Moderated by Ann Treacy, Owner, Treacy Information Services

*Speakers:* Betsy Bonnema, Founder, WORKUP (Willmar)

Matt Faris, Founding Member, Duluth MakerSpace

Dave Hengel, Executive Director, Greater Bemidji Inc. / LaunchPad

Galway B

### **Co-ops and Broadband Deployment**

Many of Minnesota's best rural broadband services are provided by cooperatives. Find out if a cooperative model might work for your community, and how existing cooperatives might be your best bet for a public-private partnership.

Moderated by Shannon Heim, Senior Counsel, Dykema

*Speakers:* Joe Buttweiler, Partnership Development Manager, Consolidated Telephone Co.

Stacy Cluff, Supervisor, IT & Network Security, Mille Lacs Energy

Joel Dahlgren, General Counsel, RS Fiber; Chief Risk Officer, United Farmers Coop

Kyle Oldre, Administrator & Emergency Management Director, Rock County

Galway C

### **Moving Your Community Up the Tech Adoption Ladder**

Learn how Social Media Breakfasts, App Camps, industry sector initiatives and business technology promotion projects can positively influence the tech savviness of your own community. Hear about best practices for helping residents, businesses and key community institutions learn new skills and deploy new tech strategies.

Moderated by Karl Samp, Community Technology Advisors

*Speakers:* Julie Foote, Market Development and Sales, MVTW Wireless

Maureen Ideker, Systems Director of Telehealth, Essentia Health

Kay Wruke, County Recorder, Martin County



## 10:45 Break

Waterford 1-2

**11:00**

**A Broadband Vision for Minnesota Session IV: Moving the Vision Forward**

Picking up the work from Vision Session III, in small groups participants will discuss: What can, should, must we do to achieve our shared vision for Minnesota? How do we share the vision? How do we move forward on the steps we've identified?

**11:55 Lunch**



**12:15**

**Legislative Policy Panel: Responding to the Vision / Preparing for the Legislative Session**

Moderated by Senator Matt Schmit

*Speakers:* Representative Dave Baker

Senator Thomas Bakk

Representative Ron Kresha

Representative Paul Thissen

**Senator Matt Schmit** (DFL-Red Wing) represents District 21 in the Minnesota Senate, which includes portions of Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona and Dodge counties. Elected in 2012, Schmit serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, which oversees telecommunications issues. He also sits on the Capital Investment and Energy and Environment policy committees, as well as the Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development finance division. In addition, he holds the gavel for the Senate Game and Fish Subcommittee.

Outside his official legislative duties, Schmit runs a small consulting firm, P3 Strategies, and is a member of the National Transportation Research Board. He is also active with the National Conference of State Legislatures, sitting on the Nuclear Energy Legislative work group.

A lifelong resident of Red Wing, Schmit's academic background includes undergraduate studies in biology and political science at Saint John's University and graduate studies in economics and public policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

**Dave Baker** is a first term Representative from Willmar/Kandiyohi County. He owns a small business called Baker Hospitalities, Inc., which operates a full service restaurant, Super 8 hotel and Green Lake Cruises. He has served on many statewide boards and associations and is the Commissioner-President of the Willmar Municipal Utilities.

In addition to serving as Assistant Majority Leader in the House, Representative Baker is currently Vice Chair of the Jobs and Affordable Energy Committee, and serves on the Aging and Long Term Care and Health and Human Services Policy Committees.

**Senator Thomas Bakk** resides on Lake Vermilion near Cook, MN with his wife Laura. They have four adult children, and six grandchildren. Tom is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. He also spends much of his free time at his wilderness cabin located in Ontario, Canada.

A legislator since 1994, Tom sees improving the standard of living for workers and their families as a key reason for serving in the Legislature. He has worked diligently to bring more value-added jobs and enhance tourism opportunities in northern Minnesota, and is committed to continuing those efforts. Tom served as Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes from 2007-2011 and continues to serve on the committee. In 2013, he became Majority Leader after having served as Minority Leader for two years.

**Ron Kresha** has been involved in telecommunications and technology since 1994 as an educator and network administrator. After bringing broadband and online curriculum to a group of central MN schools, he co-founded Atomic Learning, an online education company. In 2010, Ron founded the rural economic development company Golden Shovel Agency with the vision of assisting rural communities in improving their online economic development. In 2012, Ron was elected to the House of Representatives to serve District 9B and further economic development policy.

**Paul Thissen**, Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives was born and raised in the Twin Cities, where both of his parents were public school teachers. He attended Harvard University, and after graduating, he attended the University of Chicago Law School, where he served as an editor of the law review. He is currently a partner at the Minneapolis law firm of Lindquist and Vennum.

Paul was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002, and after just four years of legislative service, he was appointed Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. He was elected to serve as Minority Leader for the 2011-2012 biennium and led his DFL colleagues back to majority status in November of 2012. Paul was elected by his colleagues to serve as Speaker of the House in January of 2013.

In 2006, Paul was named one of "Forty Under 40" top business professionals in the Twin Cities by the Twin Cities Business Journal. In 2008 and 2013, Paul was recognized as one of the 100 Influential Minnesotans in Health Care by Physician Magazine. He was named one of the Twin Cities "Best Brains" in Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine, and the Washington Post also recently named Paul an "Emerging Star Outside the Beltway."

**12:50**

### **Remarks by Senator Al Franken**

*Introduced by Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director, MN Office of Broadband Development*

**U.S. Senator Al Franken** was first elected to the Senate in 2008, and re-elected in 2014. He currently sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee; the Judiciary Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Committee on Indian Affairs. Before running for the Senate, Al spent 37 years as a comedy writer, author, and radio talk show host and has taken part in seven USO tours, visiting our troops overseas in Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Uzbekistan-as well as visiting Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait four times.

Sen. Franken has traveled to all 87 counties, held more than 1,300 official Senate events across Minnesota, and met with thousands of Minnesotans from all walks of life in his Washington, D.C. office.



**1:10 Closing Comments**

**1:15 Adjourn**

# Exhibitors

*Visit the exhibits in Waterford 3*

## Department of Employment & Economic Development (MN DEED) Office of Broadband Development

**www.deed.gov**

1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Building; 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200; St. Paul, MN 55101

**Danna MacKenzie**, Executive Director

Office of Broadband Development

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Office of Broadband Development**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Office of Broadband Development at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED) is the central broadband planning agency for the state. The office advises policy-makers on broadband related issues; measures and monitors broadband access statewide, including producing maps showing areas with and without access; administers the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program; tracks connectivity needs of community anchor institutions such as K-12 schools, libraries, and healthcare providers; helps to identify and remove barriers to broadband deployment; surveys digital literacy and inclusion issues and opportunities; monitors federal policies and programs that impact Minnesota; acts as a clearinghouse for information on broadband funding sources and other resources, works with communities to help find solutions to their identified gaps, and provides administrative support to the Governor's Task Force on Broadband.

## A-Vu Media Corporation

**www.avumedia.com**

16841 Creek Ridge Trail; Minnetonka, MN 55345

**John Goodman**, President & CEO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A-Vu Media provides telemedicine and other broadband solutions for monitoring and video communications. A-Vu is also a founding member of the Coalition for Person-Centered Care in Minnesota developing community based coalitions for integrated service models that leverage available broadband technologies. Proven models have immediate application for older adults, persons with disabilities, and rural market applications..

## Calix

**www.calix.com**

16305 36th Ave N, Suite 300; Minneapolis, MN 55446

**Mark Worshek**

Calix is a global leader in access innovation. Its Unified Access systems and software portfolio enables network and business transformation for communications service providers worldwide.

## FTTH Council Americas

**www.ftthcouncil.org**

6841 Elm Street #843, McLean, VA 22101-0843

**Laurie Poole**, Director, Membership & Industry Relations

The Council works to create a cohesive group to share knowledge and build industry consensus on key issues surrounding fiber to the home. Its mission is to accelerate deployment of all-fiber access networks by demonstrating how fiber-enabled applications and solutions create value for service providers and their customers, promote economic development and enhance quality of life. The Council organizes North America's largest annual FTTH event, the FTTH Connect.

## MVTV Wireless

**www.mvtvwireless.com**

PO Box A, 1790 Hwy 212 W; Granite Falls, MN 56241; (320) 564-4807

**Julie Foote**, Market Dev and Sales

**Pam Rosenau**, Market Dev and Sales

MVTV Wireless is the largest fixed wireless internet service provider in Minnesota. Since April of 1999, MVTV has been bringing internet where it wasn't. Residents and businesses that had only Dialup or metered service plans now have unlimited broadband, without contract or need for a phone line. Using fixed wireless technology called Wimax (the gateway to LTE), MVTV reaches over 30,000 square miles and more than 6,000 families and businesses. Value added services include Web Hosting & Design, LAN Hops and Point-to-Point Solutions. Our robust network enables us to quickly respond to ever changing consumer needs.

As a Granite Falls based nonprofit member-owned corporation, MVTV's focus is on providing a much needed service to the state of Minnesota. Much like electricity and telephone, internet service has become a necessity. This is why MVTV will never stop expanding its coverage footprint. As communities ask, MVTV delivers!



## NewCore Wireless

**[www.newcorewireless.net](http://www.newcorewireless.net)**

3717 23rd Street South #201, St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Cami Zimmer**, Marketing

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

NewCore Wireless is the leading full-service hosted wireless switching provider with platforms capable of providing 2G (GSM), 3G (UMTS) and 4G (LTE) wireless services. We also provide value added services like SMS, MMS, voicemail, prepaid, E911, CALEA and CMAS. Founded in 2008, NewCore Wireless' mission is to provide innovative technology solutions to rural carriers that deliver scalable, end-to-end solutions. We offer each of our network partners the flexibility to run their own wireless business without the added expense of the core network. The company is headquartered in St. Cloud, MN.

## PCs for People

**[www.pcsforpeople.org](http://www.pcsforpeople.org)**

1481 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

**Sam Drong**, Program Director

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Casey Sorensen**, Executive Dir.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Madeline Tate**, Office Mgr.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

PCs for People is a St Paul based non-profit that refurbishes computers being recycled and puts them in the hands of low-income families throughout the state. Studies show that households with incomes below \$25,000 are twice as less likely to own a computer compared to households with incomes above \$50,000. Adults in these families are less likely to learn the basic computer skills they need to find employment or increase their value to their current employer. Children are unable to complete their homework or take advantage of the online learning tools many of their classmates use regularly. PCs for People recently celebrated distributing its 40,000 computer.

## SPNN – Community Technology Empowerment Project

**[www.spnn.org/ctep](http://www.spnn.org/ctep)**

2375 University Avenue W, St. Paul, MN 55105

**Lisa Peterson-de la Cueva**, Program Coordinator

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Each year 35 AmeriCorps members in the Community Technology Empowerment Project, a department of the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network, create community action projects that help bridge the digital divide. In the past, CTEP AmeriCorps members have taught teens coding and digital storytelling techniques, created city-wide digital scavenger hunts, and provided computer classes for ex-convicts, among dozens of other projects. Learn how these creative projects push Twin Cities institutions to collaborate on digital literacy and to invest in technology education.

## Ridgewater College

[www.ridgewater.edu](http://www.ridgewater.edu)

2101 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW; Willmar, MN 56201

**Robin Fischer**, Technology Center

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Larry Handlin**, RITA Grant Manager

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Dayna Latham**, Education & Employment Advisor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Andrea Moore**, Education & Employment Advisor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Creating a Technology Culture in Kandiyohi County.

Ridgewater College is a part of the Rural Information Technology Alliance (RITA) funded by a Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant and is designed to improve rural technology education at the Community College level. We realized early on that while our students were getting a good education in information technology, they were not connected to the burgeoning tech community in the area. Through Hack20 and a variety of other events and technology we are working to change that and to create a tech culture in a rural area.

## USDA Rural Development

[www.rd.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn)

375 Jackson Street Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55101

**Dominic Henderson**, Field Representative

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Thomas Jensen**, Field Representative

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we:

- offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services such as housing, economic development, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.
- promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations.
- provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.

## **Visual, Inc.**

**[www.visualvr.co](http://www.visualvr.co)**

322 N 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 502; Minneapolis, MN 55401

**Chuck Olsen**, Co-Founder, CEO

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Storytellers. Game Designers. Friendly People.

We are the creative unification of storyteller strategists (Chuck Olsen and Taylor Carik of vidtiger) and VR game designers (Chris Johnson, Kevin Williams and team from Dual Reality Games). We're lucky to work with talented music video directors, 3D artists, depth camera wizards and 360° video experts to create the most compelling VR content on the planet.

# Resources

**Conference Web Page** <http://tinyurl.com/BBConf2015> or scan the QR code→

**Conference materials** will be archived and shared on the conference web page.



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View the *Border to Border Broadband* Conference **Social Media Wall**. Visit [www.mnbroadbandtalk.com](http://www.mnbroadbandtalk.com) or scan the QR code→



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New this year! Check out the **conference app**. Visit <http://my.yapp.us/GRLEE2> or scan the QR code→



# Notes

# Conference Sponsors



**Blandin Foundation** stands with rural Minnesota communities as they imagine and claim ambitious, vibrant futures. It is one of only a handful of foundations in the U.S. focused exclusively on rural communities and the largest rural-based private foundation in Minnesota.

Blandin Foundation believes that encouraging the use of broadband is a critical component for increasing the technological vitality of Minnesota's rural communities. The Blandin Community Broadband Program works in partnership with others to increase awareness about the value of broadband; increase business and residential use of broadband in rural communities; and increase public and private investment in rural broadband capacity. Learn more at <http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org>.



Department of Employment and Economic Development  
**OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT**

The Office of Broadband Development at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED) is the central broadband planning agency for the state. The office advises policy-makers on broadband related issues; measures and monitors broadband access state-wide, including producing maps showing areas with and without access; administers the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program; tracks connectivity needs of community anchor institutions such as K-12 schools, libraries, and healthcare providers; helps to identify and remove barriers to broadband deployment; surveys digital literacy and inclusion issues and opportunities; monitors federal policies and programs that impact Minnesota; acts as a clearinghouse for information on broadband funding sources and other resources, works with communities to help find solutions to their identified gaps, and provides administrative support to the Governor's Task Force on Broadband. <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/>

## ***Thanks to the following organizations for their support:***

Arrowhead RDC, Association of MN Counties, Economic Development Association of MN, Fiber to the Home Council, Greater MN Partnership, Headwaters RDC, Initiative Foundation, League of MN Cities, MN Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators, MN Association of Townships, MN High Tech Association, MN Rural Education Association, Northland Foundation, Northwest MN Foundation, Office of the MN Secretary of State, Region Five Development Commission, Region Nine Development Commission, Resilient Region Virtual Highway Taskforce, Southern MN Initiative Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Southwest RDC, West Central Initiative