



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

For immediate release

Matt Grose named to Blandin Foundation Broadband Strategy Board

Joins Initiative to help inspire rural technology connectivity

Grand Rapids, Minn. (April 28, 2009)— Matt Grose, superintendent of Deer River Public Schools, has been named to Blandin Foundation's Broadband Initiative Strategy Board.

"I'm honored and excited to be able to represent education on a forward-thinking board committed to innovative applications of technology," Grose says. "The Blandin Foundation's Broadband Initiative Strategy Board represents the kind of broad-based, interagency cross-industry approach it is going to take to continue to move our state forward and improve technology access and results in the twenty-first century."

The Broadband Strategy Board was formed in 2003. With 17 members, representing public and private sectors, it charts the strategic direction and oversees progress of the Blandin Foundation's Broadband Initiative.

"We are delighted that Matt has agreed to share his talents, expertise and perspectives with the Strategy Board," says Bernadine Joselyn, director of Public Policy and Engagement for the Blandin Foundation. "He will be a strong addition to the Board, given his special interest and background in distance learning and other applications of technology to education and the leadership role he plays on technology issues in the Itasca Area School Collaborative."

Joselyn emphasizes that communities without broadband accessibility are economically sidelined. Those rural communities that invest in ultra high-speed communication networks, however, have the tools they need to attract and expand businesses, add jobs, strengthen health care capabilities, improve educational efficacy and overall increase the quality of life.

The Blandin Broadband Initiative vision, Joselyn says, is "to ensure a high quality of life and a globally competitive future for its citizens, business and communities, Minnesota is committed to making the necessary investment to become a world leader in the universal deployment and use of ultra high-speed next generation broadband."

Grose was named superintendent of Deer River Public Schools in 2007. He also has served as principal of Deer River High School and as a math and computer science teacher in Circle Pines, Minn. He was a member of the first cohort of educational leaders in the nation to enter a program of study focused solely on technology leadership in education, and earned a certificate in school technology leadership from the Center for the Advanced Study of Technology Leadership in Education at Iowa State University.

For further information, contact:

Allison Rajala Ahcan, communications director

218-326-0523

arahcan@blandinfoundation.org

www.BlandinFoundation.org

Blandin Foundation

Blandin Foundation, Minnesota's largest rural-based private foundation, is located in Grand Rapids, Minn. Its mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area, through grants, leadership development programs and public policy initiatives.

<http://www.blandinfoundation.org>

#