

March 25, 2014

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Anne Byers
Subject: Community Council Report

Survey of Nebraska Businesses on Broadband Use. Last fall, a survey was sent to 10,000 Nebraska businesses to learn more about their use of broadband technologies. The survey was conducted by Strategic Networks Group for the Nebraska Broadband Initiative. Results are based on 1,124 responses.

Two key findings in the survey address job and revenue growth:

- Broadband use is having a positive impact on jobs, with 364 respondents reporting a net increase of 654 jobs due to using the Internet. Over 50 percent of net jobs reported by respondents were attributed to use of the Internet.
- Broadband use is also having a positive impact on business revenue with typical respondents reporting 25 to 45 percent of revenue from the Internet.

Additional information is included in the draft findings for the state broadband plan. The complete report is available at broadband.nebraska.gov/.

Technology Fairs. Technology Fairs are being held across the state, offering hands-on presentations on remote video for security and monitoring, cloud technology, information security, mobile technology and cool tools. The schedule can be found below.

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| Atkinson | March 11 | Atkinson Community Center | 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. |
| North Platte | March 12 | North Platte Community College | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| McCook | March 13 | McCook Community College | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Norfolk | March 25 | Lifelong Learning Center | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. |
| Seward | March 26 | Seward County Fairgrounds | 9:00 a.m. - noon |
| Grand Island | March 27 | College Park Extension | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. |
| Sidney | April 2 | WNCC | 9:00 a.m. - noon |
| Alliance | April 3 | Alliance Learning Center | 9:00 a.m. - noon |

Household Survey. As part of the Nebraska Broadband Initiative, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln conducted a survey of Nebraska households about their use of broadband. Results are expected to be available in April.

Broadband Plan Vision, Goals and Draft Findings. Work groups have been formed to develop a vision and goal for the plan and to address the four priority areas: broadband availability and affordability, economic development, agriculture, and digital literacy/adoption. Their findings and recommendations will form the basis for the state broadband plan. A draft of the vision, goal and initial findings is attached for your review.