



State Broadband Summit Focuses on Connecting Communities Across Nevada

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Second annual Summit addresses job creation, economic development, and digital literacy through broadband access, adoption, and use

Las Vegas, NV – Leaders from across Nevada are putting new energy into expanding local broadband services as well as teaching all Nevadans new computer and Internet skills after this week's second annual Broadband Summit. The Summit, called Connecting Communities, drew nearly a hundred attendees to the Windmill Library in Las Vegas where job creation, economic development, and digital literacy skills through broadband access, adoption, and use took center stage.

Several speakers were on hand for the event including Nevada State Senator Ruben Kihuen, Switch Executive Vice President of Connectivity Chris Donnelly, State Director for USDA Rural Development Sarah Adler, and Connected Nation Chief Policy Counsel Tom Koutsky. Several more regional leaders and experts facilitated nine different breakout sessions focusing on broadband access, adoption, and use across Nevada.

"The Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for Nevada's technology leaders and economic development champions to come together to learn from each other, pull resources, and set new goals for both broadband expansion and the improved education of all Nevadans," said State Librarian and Nevada Broadband Task Force Chairperson Daphne DeLeon. "Quite simply, high-speed Internet offers Nevadans limitless opportunities for the future and this Summit is where the groundwork for all that begins."

The event was co-hosted by [Connect Nevada](#) along with the Governor's [Nevada Broadband Task Force](#) and hosted by the [Las Vegas-Clark County Library District](#). Those who could not attend the Summit in person were able to watch it live via web stream. A full recording is now available to watch on-demand through the [Connect Nevada website](#).

"The Nevada Broadband Summit is a critical centerpiece of building a brighter future for everyone in our state," said Connect Nevada State Program Manager Lindsey Niedzielski. "Our initiative is teaching state leaders how to implement regional broadband deployment strategies that include partners from both the public and private sectors. Through technology planning and technical assistance, we are starting to see substantial increases in broadband adoption and digital literacy across all corners of Nevada."

Photo highlights, presenter slides, and other Summit materials can be found in the Summit section of the Connect Nevada website at www.connectnv.org/broadband-summit. The Connect Nevada website serves as the central distribution center for free resources and information on Nevada broadband access, adoption, and use. Online speed tests, interactive broadband maps, current research, and more are all available. For more information on Connect Nevada's many local programs, please contact Niedzielski at (775) 343-9600 or lniedzielski@connectnv.org.

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Photo Caption: *Nevada State Senator Ruben Kihuen presents the keynote address and welcome to the 2012 Nevada Broadband Summit: Connecting Communities at Windmill Library in Las Vegas.*

About Connect Nevada: The Governor's Office and the Nevada Broadband Task Force are leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access and information about availability throughout Nevada and to ensure sustainability. Connect Nevada is a non-profit organization that was commissioned by the state to work with all Nevada broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage in order to accurately pinpoint remaining gaps in broadband availability as well as to coordinate efforts with other Federal grant award recipients in the state. Connect Nevada is now supporting the development of a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. The goal is to spread high-speed Internet across the state and make sure all Nevada residents have access to its life-changing benefits. For more information visit: www.connectnv.org.

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