



BUILDING ON BROADBAND

Inspiring Progress.

Conference Agenda

Hosted by Blandin Foundation with support from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, the 2020 annual conference will take place October 12-14 virtually via Zoom.

Tuesday, October 12

- 8:30 am **Coffee and Conversation**
Networking and casual conversation with fellow attendees and conference planners
- 9:00 **Welcome and Tone Setting**
Tina May, Vice President of Rural Services and Chief of Staff to the CEO, Land O'Lakes
Benya Kraus, Executive Director, Lead for Minnesota
- 9:20 **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**
- 9:40 ***Digital Showcase: Closing the Opportunity Gap***
Moderated by Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services
- *Fostering Productive Conversations* - Kendra Jo Grindle, Island Institute, Rockland, ME
 - *Overcoming Broadband Gaps in Rural Minnesota Communities* - Edward Hilbrich, Libraries Without Borders, Washington DC
 - *Sustainably Sourcing Digital Literacy Skill Services* - Joe Miller, Literacy Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
 - *Region Nine Tele Mental Health Portal* - Kristian Braekkan and Alejandra Bejarano, Region Nine Development Commission, Mankato, MN
 - *Smart Cities and Streaming Television* - Abraham Levine, CEO, Brainware Partners
- 11:00 ***What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***
What are our greatest opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption in rural Minnesota?
- 12:00 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday, October 13

8:30 am **Coffee and Conversation**

9:00 **Welcome and Tone Setting**

Christopher Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Minneapolis, MN
Bernadine Joselyn, Blandin Foundation

9:20 **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**

9:40 ***Getting it Done: Advocacy and Action***

Moderated by Bernadine Joselyn, Blandin Foundation

- *Minnesota Broadband: Land of Ten Thousand Connectivity Solutions* - Ry Marcattilio-McCracken, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Mankato, MN
- *Workforce Movers in Rural Minnesota* - Benjamin Winchester, University of Minnesota Extension, St. Cloud, MN
- *Surveys, Data and Stories to Inform Policy and Investment* - Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services, St. Paul, MN with Ben Winchester
- *Partnership for ConnectedMN: A Community-Responsive, Public-Private Partnership* - Anne Hoyt Taff, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation; and Hussein Farah, New Visions Foundation

10:40 ***So What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***

How can rural Minnesota communities realize their greatest broadband opportunities?

Moderated by Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors

- Tarryl Clark, Stearns County Commissioner
- Angie Dickison, MN DEED Office of Broadband Development
- Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy Cooperative
- Benya Kraus, Lead for Minnesota
- Bree Maki, Office of Senator Tina Smith
- Dave Schornack, Arvig
- Jay Trusty, Southwest Regional Development Commission

11:35 **Break**

11:45 ***Broadband Project Development***

Moderated by Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors

- Joe Buttweiler, CTC
- Mark Mrla, Finley Engineering
- Whitney Ridlon, MN Dept of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation
- Barbara Dröher Kline, Le Sueur County Broadband
- Justin Forde, Midco
- Kyle Moorhead, Hometown Fiber

1:00 pm **Adjourn**

Thursday, October 14

- 8:30 am **Coffee and Conversation**
- 9:00 **Welcome and Tone Setting**
Mark Ritchie, President, Global Minnesota
Bernadine Joselyn, Blandin Foundation
- 9:25 **For the Good of the Whole - Introductions**
- 9:40 **Reflections on *Farm Fresh Broadband: The Politics of Rural Connectivity***
Dr. Christopher Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Media Studies, University of Virginia; *Introduced by Adrienne B. Furniss, Executive Director, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society*
- 10:00 ***Staying Inspired: Spreading What Works***
Moderated by Jane Leonard, Growth and Justice
- *Cannon Roots Local Foods Initiative* - Laura Qualey, CEDA (Community & Economic Development Associates)
 - *Le Sueur County Blandin Broadband Community* - Barbara Dröher Kline, Le Sueur County Blandin Broadband Community
 - *Bringing Digital Marketing Concepts to Rural Areas* - Molly Solberg, Molly Solberg Marketing, Duluth, MN
 - *Digital Innovations in Healthcare* - Liz Dean and Nicole Hawkinson, Riverwood Health Center, Aitkin, MN
 - *Education Innovations* – Zach Pruitt, Northfield Healthy Community Initiative
- 11:10 ***Now What? Regional Gatherings Report Out***
Next steps for Minnesota's regions
- 12:00 pm **Adjourn**



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STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

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