



Connected Tennessee to Host First State Broadband Summit in Downtown Nashville on February 27

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Connected Tennessee's First Broadband Summit to Honor 3 Broadband Heroes; Registration, Nominations due February 1

Nashville, TN — On Wednesday, February 27, the Connected Tennessee State Broadband Summit and Broadband Hero Awards will be presented at the Nashville Public Library in downtown Nashville. The first event of its kind in Tennessee, this summit will assemble Tennessee leaders in business, state and local government, education, healthcare, and more to learn about broadband best practices in the state, discuss strategies to address remaining barriers to broadband access, adoption, and use, and to network with other leaders across the state working to bridge the digital divide.

Connected Tennessee is soliciting nominations for awards in the following categories:

- **Broadband Hero Award for Access** goes to an individual or organization that has significantly impacted Tennessee's broadband landscape by advancing basic or more advanced high-speed Internet access options available to unserved or underserved areas; or who has better enabled access to broadband by offering reduced-cost equipment and/or discounted Internet service.

- **Broadband Hero Award for Adoption** goes to an individual or organization that is dedicated to bridging the digital divide by overcoming identified barriers to high-speed Internet adoption. This may include efforts related to the need for digital literacy training, increased awareness of broadband relevance, barriers related to affordability (equipment or service) and beyond.

- **Broadband Hero Award for Use** goes to an individual or organization that has dedicated their time and efforts to increasing the effective or innovative use of broadband-enabled technologies resulting in improved job creation, economic development, business or government services or individual quality of life.

Online registration for the Connected Tennessee State Broadband Summit is available at <http://tnbroadbandsummit.eventbrite.com>. Nominations for Broadband Hero Award in the categories of Access, Adoption, and Use can be submitted at <http://www.connectedtn.org/broadbandsummit>.

The deadline for Early Bird registration and nominations is Friday, February 1, 2013. For more information about the Summit, Broadband Hero Award nominations, sponsorships, or to receive a nomination form, contact Connected Tennessee Executive Director Corey Johns at cjohns@connectedtn.org. More information and downloadable nomination forms are available at <http://www.connectedtn.org/broadband-summit>.

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About Connected Tennessee: As a public-private partnership, Connected Tennessee joins with technology-minded businesses, government entities, universities and non-profit organizations to improve economic development and enhance quality of life by accelerating Tennessee's technology landscape. For maps, research or more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to expand broadband access, adoption, and use, please visit www.ConnectedTN.org.

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