



Connected Tennessee Among Presenters at the National Black Caucus of State Legislators' 37th Annual Conference in Memphis

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Connected Tennessee to Highlight Impact of Technology on Youth

Memphis, TN – The [National Black Caucus of State Legislators](#) (NBCSL) is hosting their 37th Annual Legislative Conference, “PROGRESS: Moving Our States Forward Through Policy Action,” in Memphis, December 11-14 and will spotlight the efforts of Connected Tennessee during the youth policy session.

The session, “Preparing our Youth to Take the Nation’s Helm,” is taking place on Thursday, December 12 and was created to showcase the nation’s best policy ideas for legislators to educate and prepare the new generation to achieve its potential.

“NBCSL has long stood in favor of policies to prepare our youth to take our nation’s helm,” said NBCSL President Representative Joe Armstrong. “It is critical that we as leaders promote best practices that truly nurture, support, and empower future generations under our care.”

As the state broadband initiative, Connected Tennessee works to improve economic opportunity and quality of life through expanded access, adoption, and use of broadband Internet in Tennessee. Among those efforts, Connected Tennessee’s award-winning [Computers 4 Kids \(C4K\) program](#) has provided over

5,000 computers to disadvantaged youth across the state in partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee. As a result, over 90,000 hours of digital literacy training were documented among these youth in 2012 alone. During the NBCSL Conference, Connected Tennessee will be sharing practical solutions for policymakers interested in the development of widespread technological advancement and access to broadband for youth in their states.

"We at Connected Tennessee are excited about the opportunity to participate in the NBCSL's 37th Annual Conference and are looking forward to sharing our experience expanding technology access for Tennessee's youth with legislators and attendees," said Connected Tennessee Executive Director Corey Johns. "Ensuring that our youth have access to modern technology and are equipped with the digital skills required in today's economy is essential to preparing them for tomorrow's opportunities."

The NBCSL comprises over 600 African-American state representatives and senators, providing education and a platform to address an array of policy issues and help construct solutions.

The 37th Annual Legislative Conference, "PROGRESS: Moving Our States Forward Through Policy Action," is packed with sessions that address current legislative issues and events allowing attendees to network, listen, and learn. Policy sessions during the conference are closed to the media. For more information, visit www.nbcsl.org/conference2013.

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About Connected Tennessee: As Tennessee's state broadband initiative, Connected Tennessee is a public-private partnership that 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, visit www.connectedtn.org.

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