

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Stakeholder,

Since 2007, Connected Tennessee has been narrowing the divide between those who have access to broadband and those who do not. As one of Connected Nation's charter state programs, Connected Tennessee has created the forum for a variety of leaders and entities to unite behind common goals and a shared vision. This teamwork has made Tennessee a better place for business, and an even better place to live, in large measure by addressing the technology needs of education and business.

Connected Tennessee provides statewide technology leadership and advocacy through robust, public-private partnerships that expand broadband access and enhance technology adoption and use to grow economies, retain and attract talent, and create jobs. Fueled by unprecedented data and research, Connected Tennessee's ability to facilitate and organize a diverse cross-section of stakeholders has resulted in numerous efforts across the state to expand the life-changing benefits of broadband to all.

These efforts were continued and maintained in part due to the receipt of the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

While Connected Tennessee's impact has been substantial, the need for ongoing improvement in broadband access and adoption remains. The Federal Communications Commission's recent announcement of its new "advanced broadband" benchmark of 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload has ignited a renewed urgency to both meet this target and exceed those speeds in order to solidify Tennessee's stance in the cutting-edge, interconnected economy.

The following report is designed to memorialize the efforts of Connected Tennessee as well as showcase examples of the thousands of stakeholders impacted by our work to date. By examining our technology past, we can better plan for our connected future.

Sincerely,



Tom Ferree
President and COO
Connected Nation, Inc.