



Connected Texas Broadband Summit: *Every Community Online*

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

1 pm – 5 pm

Gaylord Texan Hotel

1501 Gaylord Trail, Dallas, TX 76051

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speakers

Commissioner Todd Staples

Agriculture Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture

Todd Staples is the 11th Texas Commissioner of Agriculture and recently was re-elected to serve a second four-year term in this statewide elected office. Commissioner Staples believes the free enterprise system and individual responsibility are the keys to prosperity for Texas.

From his earliest days of public service as a member of the Palestine city council through his tenures in the Texas House of Representatives and later the Texas Senate, Commissioner Staples has championed such critical issues as protection of private property owners' rights, workers' compensation reform, school finance reform and improving the education of Texas' leaders of tomorrow, just to name a few.

As leader of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Staples is diligent in his efforts to support private sector job creation and economic development across the Lone Star State; improve consumer protection from the grocery store to the gas pump; lead true eminent domain reform in Texas; and play an enormous role in continuing to improve the healthy lifestyles of young Texans.

He is also focused on the promotion of agricultural products and businesses using the GO TEXAN marketing program, and has expanded trade opportunities for Texas producers. Commissioner Staples has accomplished these priorities with a philosophy that puts family and taxpayer interests first while also focusing on efficiency.

Commissioner Staples was born in Anderson County where he was active in high school FFA and was elected state FFA vice president. He attended Texas A&M University where he graduated with honors with a degree in agricultural economics.

Commissioner Staples began serving in public office in 1989 when he was elected to the Palestine city council. In 1995 he was elected state representative and served three terms in the Texas House before being elected state senator in 2000 where he served two terms. His public service continues today as Agriculture Commissioner. Following his first election in 2006, he was re-elected to a second term in 2010.

Commissioner Staples and his wife, Janet, have four grown children.



Access Panel

Rick Rhodes, Moderator

Administrator for the Office of Rural Affairs, Texas Department of Agriculture

Rick Rhodes currently serves as Administrator for the Office of Rural Affairs at the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Rick is a native Texan. After growing up in Sweetwater, Texas, he earned a degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. His career includes ownership of a successful small business, assignments in banking and mortgage lending, serving four terms as the Mayor of Sweetwater, and leading Governor Perry's job creation initiative for two years.

Rick and his wife, Pam, live in Austin. They have two married sons and five grandchildren.

Kevin Krufky, Panelist

Vice President of Public Affairs –Americas Region, Alcatel-Lucent

Kevin Krufky serves as Vice President of Public Affairs for Alcatel-Lucent's Americas Region, where he is responsible for leading Alcatel-Lucent's legislative, regulatory, and public policy engagement with governments region-wide. Prior to joining Alcatel-Lucent, he was in private legislative and regulatory practice with the law firm Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker. Kevin has considerable public sector experience, where he previously served as Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, and as legislative staff on the Subcommittee on Communications to U.S. Senator John McCain, then-Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. He sits on the boards of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), and the Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group (BITAG).

Kevin graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.A. in political science, and earned his J.D. from the Catholic University's Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC. Kevin is a native Washingtonian and lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Shane Mitchell, Panelist

President, Rock Solid Internet & Telephone

Shane Mitchell is the President of Rock Solid Internet & Telephone, a rural provider of broadband and digital telephone (VoIP) services near San Antonio TX. He serves as a member of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce/City of San Antonio IT Committee, the Wireless Internet Service Provider Association (WISPA) legislative committee, and has served on the boards of the Mississippi Salvation Army and Independent Wang Service Provider Association. He has had the privilege of serving as a guest speaker or panelist for the National Association of Convenience Stores, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association (WISPA), Super WiFi Summit, and the Independent Wang Service Provider Association (IWSA).

Married for 33 years, Mr. Mitchell has four grown sons, and spends his downtime as a licensed aircraft pilot and reliving his youth playing baseball in the San Antonio Men's Senior Baseball League.



Steven Steele, P.E., Panelist
General Manager, Peoples Telephone Cooperative

Steven is responsible for directing all aspects of Peoples Telephone Cooperative. His many responsibilities include the overall operation of the company, implementing the NTIA Broadband Grant Award and directing Peoples Telephone strategic developments including data communications and wireless broadband initiatives.

Prior to coming to Peoples Telephone, Steven was responsible for overseeing CHR Solutions' Engineer In Charge (EIC) program. The EIC's at CHR were responsible for defining and controlling the delivery of eEngineering services to meet the client's business needs, technical requirements and organizational objectives. He joined CHR Solutions in 1991 and worked in Central Office Equipment, Project Management, Business Development and Technology Consulting. As VP Technology Consulting, he established a new group to provide strategic planning for Next Generation Networks which included the integration of IP Networks with emerging wireless technologies in preparation for IMS types of deployment. Prior to this position, Steven was the GM of the Midwest region in Minneapolis for CHR Solutions.

Steven received a BS in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington after four years in the US Air Force as an electronics technician and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

Bart Winegar, Panelist
Technical Outreach Manager, Connected Texas

Bart Winegar serves as Technical Outreach Manager where he develops professional relationships with key stakeholders in Texas and identifies and develops availability and capacity programs, primarily for last-mile applications. In addition, he also works with the State Program Coordinator to engage with community leaders to address digital literacy and broadband adoption. Bart's thirty year career in information technology and telecommunications includes serving as President of STI Communications; an Ohio based CLEC. He also served as Vice President of SOTA Technologies, Inc. with a company primary focus on network engineering, VoIP and ISP services. Bart also served as President of AEGIS Consulting, LLC assisting small businesses with leveraging information technology.

Adoption Panel

Cary Ann Siegfried, Moderator
Director of Libraries, City of Arlington, TX

Cary has 25 years of experience working in libraries, including 20 years in public libraries. Before coming to the City of Arlington, she worked for the University of Texas at Dallas and Southern Methodist University.

While working for the Arlington Public Library system, Cary has held the positions of support services administrator, assistant director of technical services, and assistant director of libraries. She has a strong interest in public computing access and technology training for all ages, and a



special interest in technology programming for children and teenagers. She has been instrumental in creating Children's Learning Centers and Youth Technology Centers in the public libraries in Arlington which offer general computing access, as well as specialized programming for children and teens in digital creativity, as well as STEM applications.

Cary has a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, a master's degree in library and information science from Louisiana State University, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Libbey Scheible, Panelist
Director Program & Operations, Technology For All

As the Technology For All Director of Program & Operations, Libbey is responsible for public computer centers located in thirty rural Texas communities and seven community centers in San Antonio. These 37 public computer centers provide public access to the Internet and deliver digital literacy training to un-served and vulnerable populations in these communities.

Libbey currently participates in and provides input to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Rural Affinity Group, and to the National Broadband Extension group hosted by the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC).

Prior to joining Technology for All, Libbey owned and operated INOSS, Inc., a management consultant firm focused on delivering best-of-breed technology solutions for information technology design, deployment, and management.

In addition to her professional career, Libbey devotes her time to her family and to her community. She is a past member of the Women's Business Council Southwest Board of Directors and the Women's Business Enterprise Council National Leadership Forum. In this capacity, Libbey facilitated other Women Business Owners in expanding their businesses and furthering their business acumen.

Peggy Semingson, Panelist
Assistant Professor-Curriculum & Instruction, University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Peggy Semingson is the Assistant Professor-Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Peggy's primary research interest is students who face challenges in literacy learning. She is interested in the concept of social-collaborative literacy learning models (Rogoff, 1991; Gregory, 2001) and studying literacy sponsors, social supports, and networks that take place in families and communities (Brandt, 2001) as well as teacher professional development programs that support teachers as they develop knowledge to help students in in-school and out-of-school learning contexts. Peggy also has a professional interest in studying the ways that we can use digital pedagogies to engage pre-service and in-service teachers to most effectively help them to teach literacy in their current and future classroom contexts. Specifically, she is interested in knowledge sharing that takes place online, distributed cognition, and video-mediated (e.g., YouTube) discussion and dialogue.



In 2010, Peggy received the UTA President's Award for Excellence in Distance Education Teaching. Peggy is also an active volunteer with the Arlington Public Library's "Arlington Reads" as well as an advisory board member of the program.

Henry Stokes, Panelist

Library Technology Consultant, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Henry Stokes is the Library Technology Consultant at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. He is also the State E-rate Coordinator for Texas, providing assistance and training for libraries in the E-rate telecommunications discount program. Henry helps coordinate the State Library's efforts for the Gates Foundation's Opportunity Online Connectivity Grant and the Edge Public Access Technology Benchmarks Initiative.

He lives in Austin with his wife Kelly and two cats Audrey and Newlin.

Don Shirley, Panelist

Executive Director, Connected Texas

Don Shirley is the executive director of Connected Texas, where he leads the statewide effort to expand broadband technology access, adoption, and use for all Texans. Don was previously a field operations manager and executive director of the Connect Ohio program. Prior to joining Connect Ohio, Don served in senior program management and product development roles in the information and communication technologies industry for companies such as Ericsson, Cincinnati Bell, and Powernet Global Communications. Don founded, secured venture-funding, and served as CEO for the Mobile Internet startup Brightpod, where he built and managed the organization's growth before orchestrating the venture's successful sale to a public company. Earlier in his career Don was a communications officer for the United States military Joint Special Operations Command. Shirley holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration from The Citadel in Charleston, SC.