



Welcome Connected Texas Stakeholders!

Thank you for joining us for the first annual **Connected Texas Broadband Summit**, a unique opportunity for broadband providers, community leaders, and stakeholders to convene with the intention to promote broadband access, adoption, and use.

Broadband expansion is vitally important to the state's economic future. Connected Texas continues to work with all broadband providers in the state to maintain a detailed map of broadband coverage. Connected Texas also works with state agencies and local communities to improve Texans' digital literacy and access to technology. There are countless benefits associated with access and adoption of broadband services and your input and support is invaluable as we address each challenge associated with expanding broadband to underserved areas of Texas.

During today's summit, we will hear from a diverse and experienced group of panelists who are leading the way in advancing Texas' technology future. I along with other Connected Texas staff will offer reports on the significant successes in the effort to improve broadband access, adoption, and use in the Lone Star State. I am excited to share these important updates with you and showcase them at this premier technology event.

- A new interactive mapping and data tool called **My ConnectView**. This web-based application will offer unmatched views of the Texas technology landscape.
- The new **Every Community Online (ECO)** program and web portal. ECO involves a partnership with the Texas State Library and Intel. ECO will teach digital literacy across the state and offer participants discounted options to adopt broadband service. Some participants will also be eligible for free computer giveaways.
- Results from the newest **Connected Texas Business Survey**. The assessment will clarify the ways in which broadband is impacting the Texas economy.

Connected Texas is very excited about these important advancements and the potential impact on the communities, businesses, and residents of Texas. These advancements will continue to set Texas apart as a technology leader.

I do hope you also take advantage of our partnership with the Telecommunications Industry Association's *TIA 2012: Inside the Network* here at the Gaylord Texan. Focused on innovation and thought leadership, TIA 2012 is the annual gathering of the community of technology suppliers that form the foundation of the global communications experience.

Please join the online conversation on Twitter using hashtag #TXBBSummit. Thank you for being here.

Sincerely,

Don Shirley
Executive Director
Connected Texas