

## **County develops road map for technology growth**

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After months of work, Cumberland County leaders have devised a technology plan designed to improve the county's economy and quality of life.

The Connected Cumberland County Strategic Technology Plan makes recommendations for technology-based improvements in nine sectors of the community: business and industry, health care, libraries, K-12 education, higher education, community-based organizations, government, agriculture and tourism, recreation and parks.

The report identifies the top priorities for the next two years:

- Promote Broadband Awareness,
- Increase Use of Public Computing Centers and Availability of Technology Training
- Improve Available Government Technology and Interactivity

A team of local volunteers completed the "road map" for technology-based growth and development during a months-long meeting process. The Cumberland County eCommunity Leadership Team built the plan with guidance from Connected Tennessee, a non-profit group that is working to accelerate the availability and use of technology throughout the state toward creating a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education and more efficient government.

The meetings are part of Tennessee's Trail to Innovation, a plan created to ensure that every Tennessee household has affordable access to high-speed Internet. The plan ultimately aims to increase the number of high-tech companies and jobs in Tennessee.

"In today's world, broadband technology can be used to further education, find a job or communicate with state and local government - all important functions that can serve to enhance the economic prosperity and quality of life of our citizens," remarked Cumberland County Mayor Brock Hill. "With this action plan, we have laid out goals for realizing greater access to broadband. An increase in broadband access equals an increase in opportunities for all the people of Cumberland County and the entire state of Tennessee."

Broadband technology can help Tennesseans take advantage of world-class opportunities without having to leave home. For example, small business owners can set up shop in a rural area while serving customers around the world, students can study

with experts in their fields with the click of a button and libraries can offer the latest electronic books with no waiting list.

Connected Tennessee's East Tennessee State Operations Manager Alyson Sumerford will continue to work with local volunteers as they implement the plan.

For more information, or to participate in future meetings, please contact Alyson at (865) 209-0716 or [asumerford@connectedtn.org](mailto:asumerford@connectedtn.org).