

Connected Tennessee Digital Inclusion Work Highlighted at FCC Public Hearing



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*Connected Tennessee's Executive Director Michael Ramage Invited to Speak at
Federal Communications Commission's Field Hearing in Memphis*

Memphis, TN – Yesterday, the digital inclusion work of Connected Tennessee was highlighted during a Federal Communications Commission's field hearing in Memphis.

Connected Tennessee's executive director Michael Ramage took part in one of a series of the FCC's public hearings promoting an open discussion between the commission and the public on the development of a national broadband plan.

In Tennessee, work to provide expanded access to and use of broadband has seen significant success. Since Connected Tennessee's 2007 inception, more than 250,000 Tennesseans have gained access to broadband.

Connected Tennessee has accomplished this goal by involving all of Tennessee's 95 counties in a technology planning and outreach process called eCommunity Strategies (eCS). Through this process, each county creates local leadership teams comprised of leaders from both the private and public sector. These teams work to create county-level technology plans in order to address a particular county's challenges related to technology growth.

"It is rewarding to be able to share the successes Connected Tennessee has been met with over the past two years as we work to expand digital inclusion for all of our citizens," remarked Michael Ramage. "I would like to thank the FCC for asking me to participate in this very important discussion as they strive to create a national broadband plan that allows all Americans to benefit from the benefits afforded by a high-speed connection."

In addition to the eCS process, Connected Tennessee has also distributed more than 2,100 computers to children, families and community-based organizations through its Computers 4 Kids program. In October, Connected Tennessee's

Computers 4 Kids program was awarded a “community service” award at the 7th annual TechStar Awards in Kingsport, Tenn. The honor was given for the program’s commitment of time and resources to improve the community through technology.

Connected Tennessee is a subsidiary of Connected Nation, a national nonprofit organization that expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when individuals and communities have the opportunity and desire to connect. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for improving technology availability and use.

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About Connected Tennessee: *As a public-private partnership, Connected Tennessee partners with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the state. The work of Connected Tennessee is made possible by support from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. For more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to accelerate technology in Tennessee’s communities, please visit: www.connectedtn.org.*

Related Links:

Watch: [Connecting Tennessee: One Community at a Time](#)

Press Release: [Connected Tennessee Wins 2009 TechStar Award](#)

About: [Computers 4 Kids](#)

About: [eCommunity Strategies](#)

News Article: [Connected Tennessee looks to bring broadband to Monroe](#)

News Article: [Connecting county to Information Super Highway](#)

News Article: [Connected Tennessee working to bridge the “digital divide”](#)

News Article: [Connected Tennessee offers step into the future](#)

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