



Partnership for a Connected Illinois
broadbandillinois.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Convene, Connect, Collaborate



Rural buyers of fiber to the home; an X-ray technician using broadband at Hardin County General Hospital in the heart of the Shawnee Forest; gigabit project meeting on Chicago's South Side; mapping telecom infrastructure in Western Illinois; reception at the new Broadband Illinois offices. (Clockwise from upper left.)



Broadband has the power to transform our lives. Illinois is leading the way.

A Big Year for Broadband in Illinois

In 2012, we saw major expansions and upgrades in high-speed Internet infrastructure in Illinois. Our Broadband Illinois web site, supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce's State Broadband Initiative, began to accelerate its return by giving providers and economic development officials the tools they need to get their communities connected—and in 2012 their joint efforts lit the way for significant advances in Illinois broadband.

Our **eTeams** field support personnel are now active in all 10 of the State's economic regions. They have been busy throughout 2012 facilitating new efforts in high-capacity broadband deployment, such as the **Illinois Gigabit Communities Challenge** launched by Gov. Pat Quinn on February 1, 2012. This program is gaining national traction; by the end of the year, the the Federal Communications Commission had launched its own **Gigabit City Challenge**.

Throughout 2012, Broadband Illinois pushed aggressively into cooperative programs that encouraged broadband education and usage. Our \$500,000 **Broadband Innovation Fund** prompted 14 entrepreneurial and community organizations to launch programs that leveraged more than \$2 million in investment capital.

These Partnership for a Connected Illinois programs are promoting, and will continue to promote in coming years, jobs, education, agriculture, civic engagement, and healthcare – through broadband. They are presently funded through an award from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Most recently, on December 19, 2012, we received word from the FCC of support for our **Better Broadband, Better Lifeline** pilot program. In partnership with seven telecommunications companies in Western and Southern Illinois, we have been chosen to invest \$1.5 million to help low-income Illinoisians to gain access to broadband services.

We work in partnership with each of you, and we rely on each of you in our common goal of building *Better Broadband, Better Lives*. The year 2013 is poised to be an even bigger, and better success. This annual report outlines our activities in 2012.

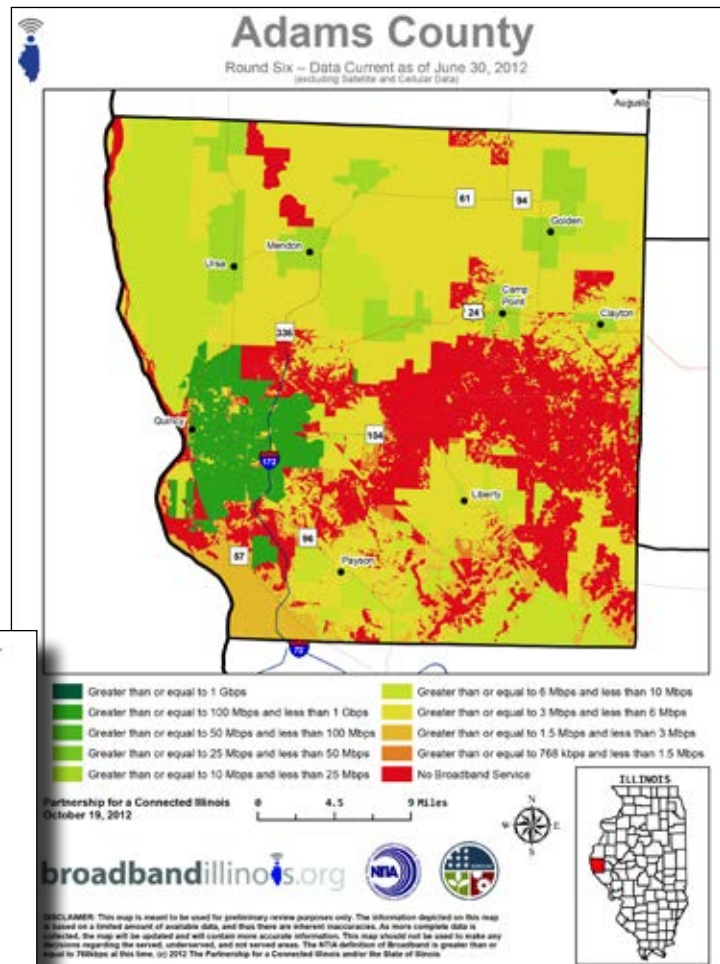
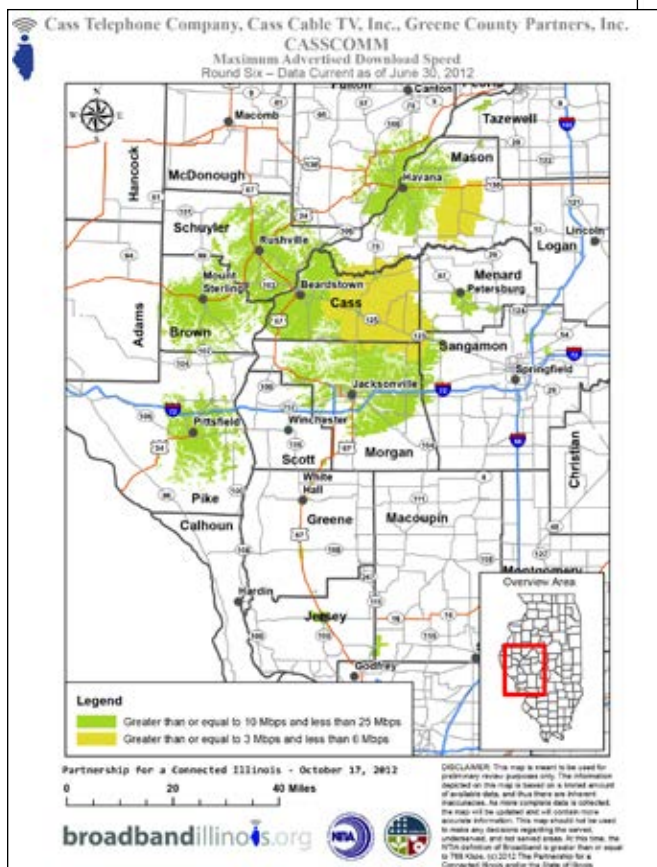
Drew Clark



Executive Director

What We Do

Broadband mapping and data collection is a backbone of our organization. Our Geographic Information Systems team contacts each Illinois broadband provider and creates detailed, interactive census-block level maps of broadband speed and availability throughout the state.



Why We Do It

Our regional eTeams help broadband providers identify areas that are in need of service. Our **Find Broadband Tool** and **Request Broadband Tool** allow users to enter a street address to see all available broadband carriers in their county. And economic developers, government officials and other businesses are discovering creative uses of broadband data for promoting healthy communities and regions.

"Broadband Illinois mapping is the first area we look at when deploying new towers."

- Nathan Stooke, CEO, Wisper ISP

Find Broadband

Our data helps users get service and providers find customers. In 2012, more than 60,000 users visited our web site, viewing more than 176,000 pages. The **Find Broadband Tool** enables users to learn about broadband services, speeds and community broadband centers in their area.

"We have gained customers who were unaware of Joink and found unserved areas to more strategically plan how to get high speed Internet to those who have none."

-Brian Gray, Joink LLC, Connectivity Manager

broadbandillinois.org
provides the tools that
Illinois needs to get online.



Request Broadband

Adequate service isn't always available. Our **Request Broadband Tool** can help. more than 13,000 users took advantage of these tools in 2012. Our request tool sends alerts to all the providers of broadband in the user's county. Providers are then able to identify pockets of aggregated demand and work out economical and strategic methods to reach these new customers.

"The growth rate of Illinois' connectivity, particularly its commercial subscribers, is due in large part to the important efforts of Broadband Illinois to develop a network of support, track real-time data and support projects on the ground in the most-needed areas."

-Alya Adamany Woods, Director of Innovation and Special Initiatives, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition

For more information:

<http://broadbandillinois.org/maps>



eTeams from Shawnee Forest to Michigan Avenue

In 2012, Broadband Illinois' **eTeams** convened economic development officials and providers of broadband in each of 10 regions of the State to create grassroots action plans for *Better Broadband, Better Lives*.

The work of our eTeams is incredibly diverse. From the most remote areas of the Shawnee Forest to Chicago's Michigan Avenue, eTeam coordinators are "in the field" each day, promoting the significant benefits of high-speed internet service.

eTeams have helped connect individual users, hospitals and schools. They've worked with economic developers and local businesses. And they maintain close relationships with providers and local businesses. The goal is to expand broadband infrastructure and connect more Illinoisans.

In Chicago, we continued efforts to increase broadband education. Major initiatives focused on ensuring the city is one of the most connected in the world. From Mayor Emanuel's **Chicago Broadband Challenge** to the gigabit infrastructure projects recently announced in Chicago's South Side, and in Aurora and Evanston, Broadband Illinois eTeams convened, connected and collaborated with key stakeholders in each region.



eTeam director Brad Housewright (center) conducts a meeting in Carthage.

2012 eTeam Highlights

- Helped create partnerships and form gigabit-level broadband plans for 17 of 40 **Illinois Gigabit Communities Challenge** applicants.
 - Assisted in increasing the number of **Eliminate the Digital Divide** grant applications from 168 to 321.
 - Launched the **Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund** throughout each eTeam region, generating 113 applications for creative broadband adoption programs during the innovation fund's first year.
 - Hosted industry-specific regional broadband gatherings and
- summits on education, health-care and agriculture.
- Utilized Broadband Illinois' mapping and data to host provider meetings and identify pockets of aggregated demand in underserved regions, allowing providers to see new areas for business.
 - In 2012, we convened broadband events in each of our 10 eTeam regions. Broadband providers, economic development and government officials, community leaders, business owners, and others attended these eTeam events.

For more information:

<http://broadbandillinois.org/eteams>

"At an eTeam meeting in the Northwest and North Central region, eTeam coordinators showed me a regional speed-tier map. I noticed a few areas were 'red' and that we would be able to serve them. We built towers in these areas and got high-speed, fixed wireless service to these residents. Our newest tower in Cullom (population 563) was lit by Christmas!"

- Cesare Bratta, President, Cyber Broadcasting LLC in Coal City, Illinois

Staffing the Broadband Deployment Council

Founded in 2005 by then Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, the **Broadband Deployment Council** works to improve access to broadband networks for residential consumers and public, private, and nonprofit organizations in Illinois.

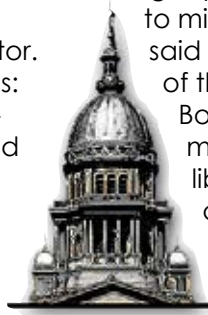
The BDC has more than 20 members, including appointees from Illinois government and the private sector. The council has three committees: Access and Infrastructure, Adoption and Use, and Information and Research.

"The Broadband Deployment Council has been instrumental in moving the State of Illinois into a competitive broadband technology region," said Herb Kuryliw, Chief Network Architect for Northern Illinois University, and a council member.

Meetings are conducted on a quarterly basis and address infrastructure projects, right-of-way issues and the needs

of community organizations like libraries and hospitals. Broadband Illinois facilitates and staffs the Broadband Deployment Council, and meetings are open to the public.

"Public libraries face a crisis in providing high-speed access to library users due to middle mile and last mile issues," said Alice Calabrese-Berry, President of the River Forest Public Library Board of Trustees and a council member. "Internet use in public libraries is sometimes the only access Illinois residents have in rural less populated areas. The Broadband Deployment Council is determined to allow for more digital inclusivity by expanding broadband across the state."



For more information and past agendas:

<http://broadbandillinois.org/events>

"Our schools are increasingly turning to the web to learn, adding computers in the classroom, and putting more courses and instructional materials online. We need widespread high-speed Internet connections to handle that demand. Broadband Illinois has taken on the online testing issue in working with the Illinois State Board of Education."

-John Meixner, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Hancock & McDonough Counties of Illinois

Working to Eliminate the Digital Divide in Illinois

The Digital Divide prevails in areas of Southern and Western Illinois, where less than 60 percent of residents use high-speed internet at home. This was discovered in a research project undertaken by Broadband Illinois and subsequently published in a report release in November 2012, "Broadband Adoption In Illinois." Identifying who has high-speed internet, who doesn't and how broadband adoption can be expanded to more Illinois homes were key themes of the study, led by Broadband Illinois Research Director John Horrigan, Ph.D.

The study provides a breakdown of broadband adoption and usage patterns for all 10 of our eTeam regions. It shows why some Illinoisans aren't connected. Overall, the data revealed that 68 percent of Illinois adults surveyed had broadband at home, as well as 56 percent of African Americans and 56 percent of Hispanics. However, in four eTeam regions - Northwest, Southeast Central, Southern and West Central - home broadband rates were less than 60 percent. The 32 percent of Illinois adults without

broadband at home tend to be older, more rural and have lower incomes than broadband users in the state.

The report also provided details on the emergence of mobile and smart phone usage. Smart phones are cited as a "strong foothold" in how Illinoisans are accessing the internet and adoption rates are particularly high for African American (52 percent) and Hispanic (60 percent) users.



John Horrigan

The full report and regional breakdowns are available for download at <http://broadbandillinois.org/research>

Our "Better Broadband, Better Lifeline" pilot program (see page 12) will help to address these disparities through efforts to promote broadband usage in Western and Southern Illinois.

Raising the Bar on Broadband Speeds

Broadband is about more than basic internet speeds for e-mail, Skype and social networking. Broadband is about high-bandwidth capacity. It's also about immersive telepresence systems, cloud computing for advanced manufacturing, and biomedical health monitoring. Broadband Illinois is raising the bar on bandwidth. In 2012, we worked to promote gigabit-level broadband connections by working in partnership with Gov. Pat Quinn's **Gigabit Communities Challenge**.

Unveiled in the State of the State address on February 1, 2012, the Gigabit Communities Challenge presented \$6 million in funding to companies or private-public partnerships that proposed innovative ways to connect at least 1,000 end-users to gigabit-level broadband. The first three winners have been selected: Gigabit Squared, in partnership with Cook County, the City of Chicago, and the University of Chicago, received \$2 million to deploy gigabit fiber and wireless to neighborhoods in Chicago's South Side. OnLight Aurora and Northwestern University/City of Evanston also each received \$1 million each to help connect their cities.

For more information:

<http://broadbandillinois.org/gigabit>



Government

Broadband provides more accessible and transparent services to citizens.



Gov. Pat Quinn announcing the first recipient of the Gigabit Communities Challenge in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago.



Nor should we forget the considerable ongoing investment in broadband fiber upgrades made through the **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program** of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the **Broadband Infrastructure Program** of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From 2009 until 2013, more than \$350 million in federal, state and private investment has enhanced the capacity of private companies and public-private organizations in the construction of new fiber infrastructure in Illinois.

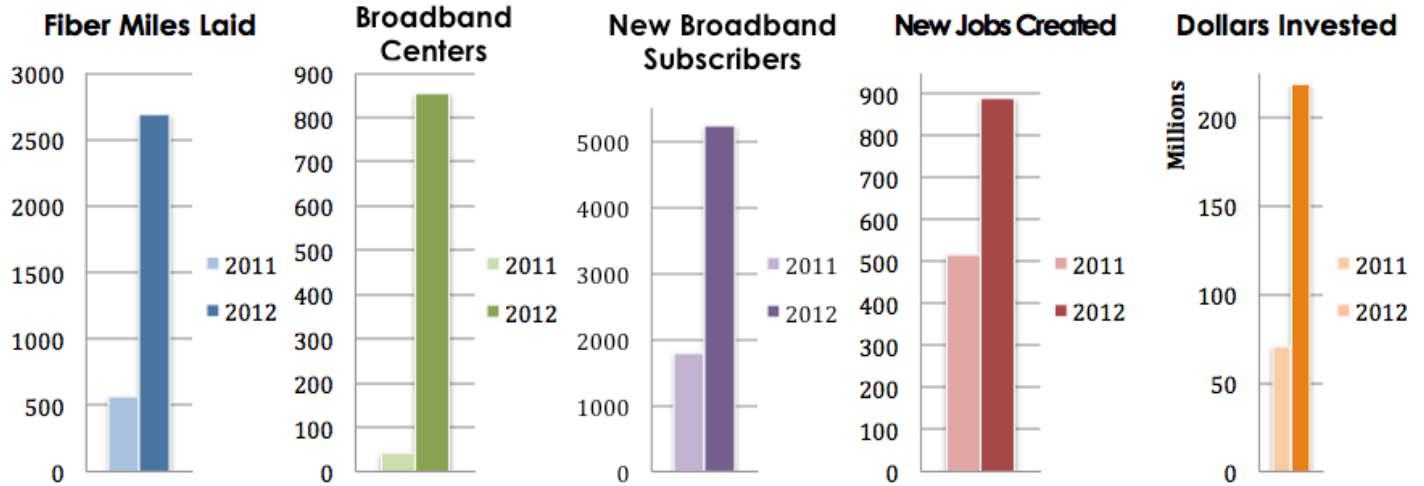
In Broadband Illinois's role as the non-profit designated State Broadband Initiative entity, we play a key oversight role over these projects. We compile monthly reports that provide accountability and document progress in building infrastructure and boosting subscribers. For example, Southern Illinois awardee Shawnee Communications began connecting community centers in the fall of 2011, and had completed their build-out by May 2012.

"From participating in our strategy and visioning sessions to coaching us through our team development; from touring the anchor institutions to hosting the webinar that lifted up our work, Broadband Illinois has been there to promote and inform our broadband infrastructure plan that will support the Woodlawn community vision."

-Pierre Clark and Laura Lane, Co-Directors, Woodlawn Broadband Expansion Partnership

Metrics for State-wide Broadband Success

This Broadband Illinois dashboard showing progress by federal broadband stimulus projects is updated monthly at <http://broadbandillinois.org/projects>



“Broadband Illinois has been dedicated to expanding broadband to the underserved and unserved communities of Illinois. They continue to work with the providers and communities in our region to push for the availability and adoption of broadband, and for expanding the opportunities for all people in our region.”

- Bill Buchanan, Vice President of Operations, McDonough Telephone Cooperative



The Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund

The **Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund** is a key project that defined much of our work in 2012 and received attention on a statewide and national scale. The first-of-its-kind internet adoption and usage program prompted 113 private, public and nonprofit organizations to create innovative applications aimed at improving the quality of life in their region. In October, the Innovation Fund awarded \$500,000 to 14 organizations throughout Illinois.

The program complimented other initiatives focused on infrastructure (like the **Illinois Gigabit Communities Challenge**, page 8.) and encouraged entrepreneurial and nonprofit organizations to ask “Now that we have broadband, can we use high-speed connections to make a difference in our region?”

The Broadband Innovation Fund gave Illinoisans a platform to think creatively about high-speed Internet usage. We received applications aimed at using broadband to improve everything from agriculture and energy to telemedicine and public safety.

In Carlinville School District, students are learning digital story-telling and preservation skills through interviews with local WWII Veterans. The Broadband Innovation Fund will allow the Illinois Veterans Classroom Project to expand to four other schools and create online professional development modules.



Program Manager Anne Madonia-Hubbard

The City of Monmouth is creating the Warren County Virtual Museum and will share the web application with other communities in Illinois.

In Chicago, the Family Christian Health Center will create a patient web portal to allow local underserved residents better access to their primary care providers.

And in rural Central Illinois, Integrated Therapy Services will use broadband to provide specialized health and education services to families that wouldn't have access otherwise.

For more information (details, videos, slides):

<http://broadbandillinois.org/innovation>



Agriculture
Farmers sell and manage their crops, and monitor weather forecasts.



Energy
The “smart grid” improves reliability and provides savings.



Healthcare
Rural residents consult with doctors and specialties via internet video.

“Broadband Illinois has facilitated contacts between the Illinois Rural Health Network and rural hospitals and clinics, so that new possibilities for improved health care can be brought to fruition.”

- Doug Power, Project Coordinator, Illinois Rural HealthNet



Public Safety
Faster and more efficient fire and police response relies on better broadband.

“Broadband Illinois is a valuable partner in strengthening our regional economy so that our communities, both urban and rural, can prosper.”

-Nick Hayward, Planner,
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Entrepreneurship, Agriculture & Digital Skills

Preparing high-school students in rural Illinois to be self-reliant, enterprising and innovative are foundations of the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities class (CEO) based in South Central Illinois. In its 5th year, the widely-successful CEO class is currently open to students in Effingham county with an interest in becoming leaders. As a **Broadband Innovation Fund** awardee, the program will grow and replicate its successes in other areas.

"Thanks to the Broadband Innovation Fund, we'll be able to expand to communities that otherwise might not have been able to afford launching a CEO program," said Craig Lindvahl, head of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship and class instructor. "In our day-to-day work, broadband is essential for learning, teaching and interacting."

CEO classes aren't conducted in a typical classroom. Instead, students travel to local business each week and engage with local entrepreneurs who are tackling real world problems. Though hands on learning, each CEO student creates a business plan using a laptop, high speed internet, and interactive web collaboration tools. To date, about 80 real life businesses have been started by young entrepreneurs, adding to the economy of rural Central Illinois.



Job Creation
Businesses grow by
locating in areas with
broadband.



Western Illinois University Agriculture Department personnel use sonogram technology to examine sheep.



Molly Neimerg, a CEO student, discusses a project with local businessperson Ann Deters.

"We recently partnered with the Effingham Helen Matthes Library and University of Illinois Extension representatives to pilot Connecting Generations, a community volunteer program that matches tech-savvy school students with area seniors to learn Internet skills. Through a Broadband Innovation Fund award, our partners are now working to expand student-to-senior mentoring program to 10 other public libraries in the region."

-Jean Anne Grunloh, Executive Director,
East Central Illinois Development Corp.



Makayla, an eighth-grade student, and Nancy learn to Skype at the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham.

A Lifeline For Low Income Broadband

In December, the Federal Communications Commission announced that residents in 35 rural Illinois counties are set to receive \$1.5 million in discounted internet services, digital literacy training, and low-cost internet devices. The goal is to study the effects on users as the FCC transitions to providing low-cost phone service to broadband technology.

Broadband Illinois' pilot program "**Better Broadband, Better Lifeline**" is designed to target citizens who need broadband the most—the 37 percent of Illinoisans without high-speed connections at home. We've also made

sure to address each of the three barriers to getting low-income individuals online: cost, digital literacy and relevance.

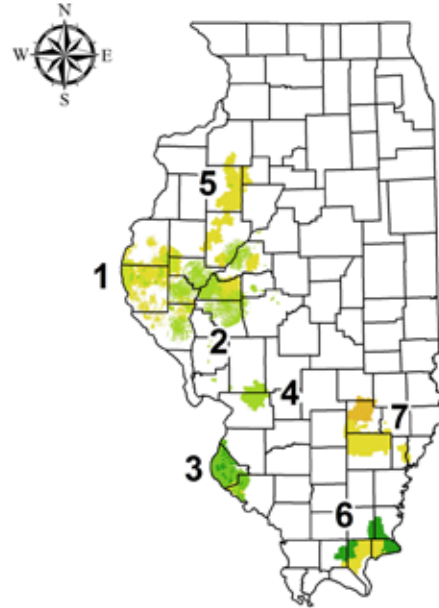


Through convening seven broadband providers, two world-class training entities, and the marketing muscle of our on-the-ground regional eTeams, we'll have the opportunity to show how Better Broadband can enhance individual lives.

For those eligible, one-on-one digital literacy training and outreach will be provided by Broadband Illinois, Connected Living and the Citizens Utility Board.

For more information:

<http://www.broadbandillinois.org/lifeline>



Participating Providers:

1. Adams Networks
2. Cass Communications Management
3. Harrisonville Telephone Cooperative
4. Madison Communications
5. Mid Century Telephone Cooperative
6. Shawnee Telephone Cooperative
7. Wabash Telephone Cooperative



Regional eTeam Leader Barbara Webster and Kim Harber

"As we continue to develop the synergies brought about by private sector investment, the governor's Broadband Deployment Council and the FCC's lifeline pilot, Broadband Illinois can facilitate and coordinate the "think tank" leadership required to address the expanding role that technology will play in successful community and economic development efforts throughout every region of Illinois."

- Kim Harber, Vice President, Madison Telephone



Education
Students do homework
and take courses online.

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Bruce Montgomery speaks during a press conference at which Gov. Pat Quinn announced Evanston would receive a \$1million Gigabit Communities award.



Charles Benton, left, receives the Everett C. Parker Ethics in Telecommunications Award.



Karen Poncin greets guests at an eTeam meeting.

“Broadband Illinois has played a major role in laying the groundwork for new partnerships with communities, businesses and organizations seeking enhanced broadband services. Convening internet service providers alongside community and organizational leaders has created a new conversation. By working together, service providers and communities are finding new ways to help each individual and to increase broadband adoption.”

-Kathie Brown, Extension Educator, Community & Economic Development, University of Illinois Extension

Broadband Illinois Staff



Regional eTeam Leader Clayton Black, Brad Housewright, Drew Clark and Gov. Pat Quinn's Deputy Chief of Staff Ryan Croke; Gov. Pat Quinn and Regional eTeam Leader Ernie Sanders; Drew Clark explaining broadband at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield; on the Broadband Innovation Tour. (Clockwise from upper left.)

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[DEBORAH STRAUSS](#) | Consultant
[BRIAN WEBSTER](#) | Telecom Project Coordinator



Broadband Illinois Partners

Below is a sampling of the businesses, foundations, economic developers, plus the community and civic organizations with whom we have partnered.





Broadband Illinois is located on the fifth floor at
531 East Washington St. in downtown Springfield, Illinois,
across the street from the Old State Capitol building.

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