Greenwood County Announced as Certified Connected Community

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Greenwood County continues commitment to economic development, quality of life with release of technology plan

Greenwood, SC – Today, Connect South Carolina staff and local officials recognized Greenwood County as a Certified Connected Community. Greenwood County is the fifth Certified Connected Community in South Carolina.

"Connect South Carolina applauds Greenwood County's hard work to complete the Connected Community Certification and continue to improve the community's access, adoption, and use of broadband technology," said Jim Stritzinger, executive director of Connect South Carolina.

The Greenwood County Broadband Committee has been working since February 2013 with Connect South Carolina on the Connected Community Engagement Program. This initiative assesses the local broadband landscape, identifies connectivity gaps, and establishes technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the community. Greenwood County met the requirements necessary to achieve the Certified Connected Community status.

"Greenwood County is one of only five Certified Connected Communities in South Carolina," said Heather Simmons Jones, CEO of Greenwood Partnership Alliance. "This is another way for us to set our community apart and assure new and existing industries that we have the technological infrastructure in place for them to be successful in Greenwood County."

Connected certification affords a community an avenue to discuss its success and pursue opportunities as a recognized technologically-advanced community. The Greenwood County Technology Action Plan unveiled at the event includes projects and action items related to partnerships, connectivity, and broadband training and awareness for Greenwood County to undertake in the near future. The certification is an important benchmark as the team now phases into working its newly established long-term community technology action plan.

For more information about the project or to join a Connected community technology team, please contact Connect South Carolina at info@connectsc.org.

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About Connect South Carolina: As the State Broadband Initiative grantee, Connect South Carolina is leading the effort to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption, and use to ensure South Carolina's competitiveness in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century. Connect South Carolina is a public-private partnership designated by the state to work with all broadband providers to create South Carolina's first interactive map of broadband coverage. This work serves as a foundation for addressing remaining service gaps while also engaging state, regional and local leaders in workforce development activities designed to bridge South Carolina's digital divide. For maps, research or to get involved with efforts in your community please visit: www.ConnectSC.org. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement

Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected Certified Communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation, through its partners, provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative.