



Hampton County Community Welcomes Comprehensive Technology Action Plan

Media Contact: Jessica Ditto
jditto@connectednation.org
(202) 251-4749

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2013

Erin Kleinlein
ekleinlein@connectsc.org
(803) 318-5639

Hampton County aims to increase the broadband footprint in the community with plan to expand broadband access, adoption, use

Hampton, SC – Hampton County now has an action plan to make way for greater technology use across the community and pave the way for a brighter economic future. A comprehensive [Technology Action Plan](#) was unveiled on September 10 at the B.T. DeLoach Building in Hampton as part of Hampton County's participation in the [Connected](#) Community Engagement Program through the Connect South Carolina initiative.

Hampton County Public Works hosted the event attended by community leaders representing Hampton County Economic Development, Hampton County Chamber of Commerce, Hampton County Government, local school districts, and many more. Thirty South Carolina communities are currently involved in some stage of the Connected program, but Hampton County is the state's fourth to unveil its official Technology Action Plan.

"We are excited to be a part of this important initiative that will put our residents on the information superhighway," said Hampton Community Champion Stephanie DeLoach. "As our world becomes increasingly technology-driven, we don't want to be left behind. The Connected community certification process will help us achieve a better business environment, more

effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education, and more efficient government.”

Participating in the Connected program means Hampton County has gone through an extensive assessment of its overall broadband and technology landscape. The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity requirements to be worked toward that will support economic development and residential quality of life. Hampton’s top goal from the new plan is to address Internet access and availability at the county’s three industrial parks. The plan will also support increasing digital literacy through future broadband expansion and programs that will ensure the community maintains widespread Internet access, adoption, and use.

This technology plan is an important and powerful step to address the needs identified during the assessment process: increasing broadband penetration and adoption rates, improving broadband access in rural areas, and becoming a certified Connected community. As a result of the implementation of these components, Hampton County will be a step closer to achieving full certification, which in turn can help build a stronger business case for broadband providers to invest in this type of technology in Hampton County and surrounding areas.

Photo: Stephanie DeLoach with Hampton County Public Works explains the importance of broadband connectivity to the Hampton County community at the unveiling of the Hampton Technology Action Plan at the B.T. DeLoach Building last Tuesday..

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The Connected program is part of the Connect South Carolina initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce NTIA State Broadband Initiative program. Connect South Carolina is working to facilitate the access, adoption, and use of technology throughout the state to create a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, more efficient government, enhanced education, and improved quality of life. Residents are encouraged to get involved by joining their local Connected technology team and using the free [Every Community Online](#) program offered by Connect South Carolina to get training in computer and Internet skills which makes them eligible for discounted computers and home Internet service.

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. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>



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About Connect South Carolina: As the State Broadband Initiative, 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.

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