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Connect South Carolina Names Anderson County Broadband Hero Award Winner

Award Presented at 'IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina' Conference

ANDERSON, SC – [Connect South Carolina](#) recognized Anderson County with a Broadband Hero Award during the "IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina" event in Columbia last Thursday. Anderson County was selected to receive the award for becoming the first certified Connected community in South Carolina.

Steve Newton, the senior grant writer for Anderson County, was recognized as the community champion for leading the efforts toward certification.

The Connected Community Engagement Program guides communities through an assessment of their overall broadband and technology innovation, using criteria set as a part of a "community certification" model. The program helps train regional team leaders and supports the formation of community planning teams made up of various sector representatives.

Connected Certification is achieved by reaching benchmark scores in the areas of broadband access, adoption, and use. Anderson County's Connected assessment indicates the community is exhibiting high success in these areas.

Governor Nikki Haley wrote a letter congratulating Anderson County for being a true Broadband Hero. Acting FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn also appeared by video reiterating the importance of the adoption of broadband in South Carolina.

Anderson County was commended for its recognition of the importance of connectivity and continued efforts with Connect South Carolina. It is making great

strides to see that every resident has access to broadband and the skills needed to compete in an ever-changing technological society.

In attendance at the Connections 2013 Summit were more than 150 education professionals, broadband providers, technology companies, community representatives, and additional attendees throughout the state via webcast.

Anderson County has made a commitment to continue its recognized excellence in technology and broadband planning by promoting computer ownership, Internet access, and digital literacy training for low-income students. These contributions have made and will continue to make a sustainable impact on the county of Anderson and the state of South Carolina.

Connect South Carolina thanks Newton for championing broadband expansion in his community and Anderson County for fully embracing the access, adoption, and use of broadband.

To learn more about getting your community involved, visit our webpage: <http://www.connectsc.org/your-community>.

Photo: From left, members of Anderson County Community Technology Team with Connect South Carolina Community Technology Advisor Lindsay Conrad at Thursday's "IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina" event in Columbia.

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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.

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