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## **Connect South Carolina Names Greenwood County Broadband Hero Award Winner**

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

**GREENWOOD, SC** – [Connect South Carolina](#) recognized Greenwood County with a Broadband Hero Award during the "IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina" event in Columbia Thursday. Greenwood County was selected for the award based on the collaboration of state agencies, local business leaders, and manufacturer [Piedmont CMG](#).

These interactions led to the signing of a construction contract with Piedmont Rural Telephone to bring fiber optics to both of Piedmont's facilities, and the improved speed of fiber optics will position Piedmont CMG to more efficiently support its national and international customers.

Catalina Valencia of the Greenwood Partnership Alliance was named a community champion for her extensive help in forming a group to discuss and address the broadband connectivity challenges in Greenwood County.

"We've learned a lot about how much we need to do in our county in order to be able to have the infrastructure that we need for our companies, for our schools, our people ... to have good access to Internet and to be able to utilize it to its full potential," Valencia said.

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

Governor Nikki Haley recognized Greenwood County for its collaborative efforts that produced the broadband expansion. Acting FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn also appeared by video reiterating the importance of the adoption of broadband in South Carolina.

Connect South Carolina thanks Valencia for championing broadband expansion in her community and Greenwood County for coming together to put a plan into motion to enhance broadband access, adoption, and use in the community.

**Photo:** From left, members of the Greenwood County Community Technology Team with Connect South Carolina State Program Lead and Community Technology Advisor Heather Jones 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](http://www.ConnectSC.org).

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