



Connect South Carolina Names Three New Community Technology Advisors

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

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Columbia, SC – Connect South Carolina announces that Lindsay Conrad, Sheila Dugan, and Heather Jones have joined the Connected Nation team as Community Technology Advisors for South Carolina.

In their roles, Dugan, Jones, and Conrad will coordinate and manage the activities of the South Carolina community technology planning teams. They will identify and train community champions to bring together representatives from local government, education, business and industry, and other sectors to serve as dedicated participants in the community technology assessment process. In addition, they will provide “train-the-trainer” activities to community champions and technology planning teams to increase awareness of the broadband landscape in the community and to spur digital literacy activities in each region.

“We are thrilled that Lindsay Conrad, Sheila Dugan, and Heather Jones have joined the Connect South Carolina Team,” said Connect South Carolina Stakeholder Relations Manager Corey Johns. “To attract individuals of their caliber speaks volumes about the importance of our mission to increase broadband access, adoption, and use in South Carolina. Real progress bridging the digital divide comes when community leaders get involved and Sheila, Heather, and Lindsay are the perfect team to lead those efforts. We encourage state and local leaders to be proactive in reaching out to them to learn how they can get involved with efforts in their community.”

Jones is a veteran of local government and economic development in South Carolina. She served for five years as Allendale County Administrator, helped

develop the Beaufort Commerce Park and Bluffton Technology Park as executive director of the Greater Beaufort/Hilton Head Economic Partnership and, during an 18 month period, announced 1,902 jobs and \$159.5 million in investment as assistant county administrator for Economic Development in Anderson County. Jones holds a bachelor of arts from Clemson University and is a candidate to receive a master's in human resources this August.

Prior to joining Connect South Carolina, Dugan worked for the Center for Innovative Technology as a broadband program assistant where she assisted the Commonwealth of Virginia with its broadband data collection and mapping efforts as part of the NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development grant program. In this role, she designed systems for displaying e-commerce and health information technology data on an online broadband availability map and examined the impact of broadband deployment on economic development with small business development centers and other organizations. She holds a master's degree in public policy from the College of William and Mary and a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Brown University.

Conrad brings a wealth of experience in community engagement, volunteer coordination, and grassroots management. She has worked on get-out-the-vote efforts and other voter education initiatives, specifically while serving in leadership positions for both statewide and national student organizations. Conrad has a bachelor's degree from Maryville College and a master's in economics from Vanderbilt University.

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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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