

ConnectKentucky Recognized by the Alliance for Public Technology



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*Alliance for Public Technology (APT), a consumer advocacy group awards
ConnectKentucky with the 2008 Susan G. Hadden Pioneer Award*

Washington, D.C.: ConnectKentucky was recently honored with the 2008 Susan G. Hadden Pioneer Award presented by the Alliance for Public Technology (APT). The award was presented during the APT 2008 awards luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The Hadden Award honors individuals and organizations which, like the award's namesake, advocate for widespread public access to advanced telecommunications. Until her passing in 1995, Dr. Hadden dedicated her career to the principle of "connecting each to all," defining a national vision for technology access. APT has presented the awards annually for 12 years.

"ConnectKentucky is extremely pleased to receive the 2008 Susan G. Hadden Pioneer Award," ConnectKentucky executive director René True said. "Once again, the demonstrated results and substantial impact of the ConnectKentucky model for increasing access to and adoption of technology draw attention and praise far beyond our state borders. ConnectKentucky would like to thank our many public and private partners, along with our dedicated staff, without which this award would not be possible."

ConnectKentucky has garnered national, industry-wide recognition as a best-practice model for broadband expansion. The model includes extensive broadband mapping, a public-private partnership and local eCommunity Leadership Teams.

"ConnectKentucky provides an incredibly successful model for stimulating broadband build out and demand that should be adopted nationally", said Kenneth Peres, president of APT and economist with the Communications Workers of America (CWA). "ConnectKentucky's comprehensive strategy of assessing broadband availability, identifying and aggregating demand through grassroots county planning teams, and bringing providers and users together through a private public partnership has resulted in an expansion of broadband availability that is both significant and measurable," said Peres.

The Alliance for Public Technology is a non-profit membership organization based in Washington, D.C., which was founded in 1989 to foster public policies that ensure access to advanced telecommunications technologies for all Americans. Its mission is to promote deployment of advanced telecommunications services in order to foster improved and more affordable health care for all citizens, expand educational opportunities for lifelong learning, enable people with disabilities to be more independent and productive members of our society, create opportunities for jobs and economic advancement, make government more responsive to all citizens and simplify access to technology.

Also honored today were Laurie Lipper and Wendy Lazarus, founders of the Children's Partnership. Previous recipients of the Susan G. Hadden Award have included: former FCC Chairman William E. Kennard, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, former Communications Workers of America President Morton Bahr, Congressman Edward Markey and Charles Benton, chairman and trustee of the Benton Foundation.

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About ConnectKentucky: *As a non-profit technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky is working to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. As a public-private partnership, ConnectKentucky partners with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.*

For more information about ConnectKentucky, visit www.connectkentucky.org.