

Connected Nation Brings National Broadband Dialogue to Kentucky



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2008

U.S. Chamber of Commerce partners with Bowling Green-based Connected Nation to spotlight Louisville and discuss broadband opportunities for Kentucky

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY — Today, the *Connect!* Tour assembled state telecom leaders, public officials and business leaders to identify opportunities for extending Kentucky's recent broadband gains and nationally-recognized broadband leadership position. The *Connect!* Tour is a national effort coordinated jointly by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Connected Nation, the parent company of ConnectKentucky, and sponsored locally by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Greater Louisville, Inc. to promote the importance and benefits of broadband and related technologies. The Louisville event is one of a series of regional dialogues to be held across the United States.

"Broadband access is absolutely essential for Kentucky to be internationally competitive and to grow our small businesses across the state," according to Dave Adkisson. "Broadband continues to support the growth of Kentucky businesses, and we are fortunate to have ConnectKentucky's support."

Today's dialogue addresses the ability of broadband to impact everything from economic development and U.S. global competitiveness to telemedicine and education. Adkisson presented the keynote address and was followed by a panel discussion with representatives from government services, healthcare, the IT sector and education.

"Sound broadband policies are critical for the economic success of American businesses," said William L. Kovacs, Vice President of Environment, Technology, and Regulatory Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "Our goal is to make sure that lawmakers, businesses, and consumers are educated on ways to help expand broadband opportunities so that businesses can continue to thrive."

Brian Mefford, CEO of Connected Nation, and Jason Goldman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce moderated the broadband panel discussion. Panelists included:

- Jason Goldman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Jim Barnhart, Commonwealth Office of Technology
- Joe Reagan, Greater Louisville, Inc.
- Beth Niblock, Louisville Metro Government
- Allen Lind, Council for Postsecondary Education
- Lee Tompkins, NIC, Inc.
- Joseph DeVenuto, Norton Healthcare

The meeting is available to view online at NextGenWeb.org. For more information about the online video of the event, visit www.nextgenweb.org.

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About Connected Nation: Connected Nation (www.connectednation.org) is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization widely recognized for its ability to improve digital inclusion. Connected Nation expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when communities and families have the opportunity and desire to connect. For the United States, this means better education, more jobs, improved healthcare, more efficient government and a better quality of life.