

ConnectKentucky Momentum Grows: New Executive Director Named



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ConnectKentucky success spurs recognition in global publication and the addition of new leadership – Rene True named Executive Director

Frankfort, KY: Efforts led by the Kentucky non-profit ConnectKentucky are garnering unprecedented success in broadband (high speed Internet) deployment and technology advancement. Utilizing what is becoming known as the Connected Nation model for technology expansion, ConnectKentucky has helped the Commonwealth become a national leader in technology adoption and planning, as recently cited in publications including *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

America is watching Kentucky's success story and as a result, states are considering the possibility of replicating the model to close the digital divide in communities across the nation. Additionally, the United States Congress has numerous efforts underway to establish a national initiative to replicate Kentucky's success that has resulted from ConnectKentucky's work in the Commonwealth. The bipartisan Connect the Nation Act of 2007 has been filed by Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) to encourage the rapid deployment of affordable broadband Internet service, particularly in rural areas. The legislation would enable states to implement an initiative similar to ConnectKentucky, a public-private partnership leading efforts to accelerate broadband availability and technology literacy throughout the Commonwealth.

High-speed Internet has quickly become the necessary foundation for economic development. With broadband Internet, Kentucky communities can engage the world with their goods and services. Industries reliant upon traditional manufacturing can use the Internet to expand their markets and make their operations even more efficient. Broadband brings educational opportunities, improved healthcare, more effective and efficient government services and ultimately a better quality of life for all Kentucky residents.

In response to the growing demand for technology planning in the Commonwealth and in light of the organization's transition to focus on how newly available technology can best be used across Kentucky, the organization has recently announced the promotion of Rene' True to ConnectKentucky's Executive Director.

"The technology model that began in Kentucky is creating an impression all over America. The ConnectKentucky partnership has provided a model of success upon which we will continue to build," True said. "Kentucky will continue to lead the nation as we demonstrate what is possible when a state has an effort so intensely focused on ensuring that all people are able to share in the opportunities provided through technology."

True's role as Executive Director of ConnectKentucky will provide primary management for ConnectKentucky, while also demonstrating leadership and vision to accelerate the growth of technology in the Commonwealth.

"ConnectKentucky has been a driving force behind our successful efforts, over the last few years, to expand broadband access statewide," stated Representative Charlie Hoffman. "I look forward to working with Mr. True as we continue this mission to bring the power of the Internet to all Kentuckians."

Prior to joining ConnectKentucky, True served as Executive Director of the Office of Research and Information Technology in the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. In addition to managing a 20 person staff, his responsibilities included coordinating the agency's strategic planning efforts and overseeing the Cabinet's IT functions. Before joining the agency, René served over three years as Deputy Secretary of the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet, where he helped develop and implement the Cabinet's first strategic plan. True holds a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky.

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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