



September 13-14, 2016

Greysolon Ballroom

Duluth, Minnesota

#mnbroadband

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tuesday, September 13

4:00 pm Registration Opens

5:00 Reception

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Voices from the Present, Visions of the Future featuring videos from students (middle school through college) expressing their thoughts on broadband. What do they do online now? What are their thoughts for the future? Would they live in a community with limited broadband?

8:00 Social Time

9:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, September 14

8:00 am Breakfast Buffet

9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Emily Larson, City of Duluth and Bernadine Joselyn, Public Policy & Engagement Director, Blandin Foundation

- 9:35** **The Vision is in the Room Part I** attendees connect with and gain insight into the talents and resources present amongst fellow participants
- 10:00** **Advancing the Vision – Update from the Office of Broadband Development**
Danna MacKenzie and Jane Leonard of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development
- 10:15** **Break**
- 10:30** **Advancing the Vision – Community Success Stories** visit Learning Stations featuring projects funded through the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program. Station presenters:
- Border to Border Phase I (St. Louis County), Northeast Service Cooperative (*invited*)
 - Central Itasca County Fiber, Paul Bunyan Communications
 - FTTH Project (Renville and Sibley Counties), RS Fiber
 - FTTP Project, Rock County Broadband Alliance
 - Middle Mile (in 20 southwestern MN counties), MVTV Wireless
 - Winona County Whitewater Area, Hiawatha Broadband Communications
- 11:45** **Lunch and Program: Honoring and Learning from our Past** celebrating the 25th anniversary of MRNet
- 1:00 pm** **Navigating Challenging Broadband Decisions** panel moderated by Bill Coleman of Community Technology Advisors. As more modern broadband networks are deployed across Minnesota, elected officials in counties without high-quality, ubiquitous broadband are feeling the pressure from residents and businesses to make it happen. At the same time, the availability of DEED grants and CAF2 funding and changes in technology are making the landscape all the more uncertain.
- Bill will be talking with local broadband champions to illuminate their decision making process around key questions in a dynamic broadband deployment landscape. Panelists:
- Valerie Halvorson, City of Madison
 - Scott Higgins, Martin County
 - Nancy Hoffman, Chisago County HRA-EDA
 - Tom Johnson, Nobles County
- 2:00** **Break**

- 2:15** **The Role of Co-ops in Advancing the Vision** panel moderated by Bernadine Joselyn of Blandin Foundation. When rural Minnesotans first needed electricity and then telephones, cooperatives formed to meet the challenge. Today, we are seeing an expansion in the role that cooperatives are playing in meeting rural broadband needs. Leaders from four rural cooperatives will share how they are dealing with the demand for better broadband from their current members and neighboring communities. Learn how these cooperatives make their decisions about partnerships and new markets:
- Stacy Cluff, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
 - Robin Doege, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
 - Kent Hedstrom, Runestone Telecom Association
 - Kristi Westbrock, CTC-Consolidated Telecommunications Company
- 3:00** **Local Providers - Wired to Empower Rural Communities** keynote address by Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications
- 3:45** **The Vision is in the Room Part II** concluding activity reveals new opportunities and ideas
- 4:00** **Closing Comments**
Bernadine Joselyn, Public Policy & Engagement Director, Blandin Foundation
- 4:15** **Adjourn**



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