



Texas Digital Inclusion Conference Showcases Bright Broadband Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 29, 2013

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

Conference Concludes with Detailed Report on How Broadband Impacts the Texas Economy

Austin, TX – The [Digital Inclusion in Texas Conference and Colloquium](#) last week now has some of the nation's top scholars and policymakers considering new ways to make Internet technology available to everyone. The importance of that effort is reinforced by a new report released with the conclusion of the conference. The report, titled [How Broadband Impacts the Texas Economy](#), shows the various ways that Texas broadband adopters save money by using broadband service.

Among the report's findings:

- Texas broadband subscribers report that finding healthcare information online saved them an average of 2.4 trips to the doctor, and 2.4 trips to the emergency room in the past year. This translates into a statewide savings of \$7.6 billion annually.
- Texas broadband subscribers report that they drive an average of 165.6 fewer miles per month as a result of subscribing to home broadband service. This results in an estimated annual savings of \$11.2 billion in driving costs, plus a reduction of 17.8 billion pounds of CO₂ emissions.
- Texas broadband subscribers are able to do things faster with broadband, resulting in an estimated 15 hours per month that can be spent with family, developing a small business, or helping in their communities. Statewide, Texas broadband subscribers save an estimated 2.1 billion hours per year, worth approximately \$22 billion annually.
- On average, each Texas broadband subscriber saves an estimated \$3,161 per year as a result of driving fewer miles, doing things faster, and making fewer trips to the doctor or emergency room.

- The combined savings of broadband adoption on the Texas economy is \$40.9 billion. An additional \$700 million is saved for every 1% increase of broadband adoption across the state.

“The results of this new report make it clearer than ever just how much there is to be gained by having every Texan connected to the Internet,” said Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “That’s why events like this weekend’s Digital Inclusion Conference and Colloquium are so important as we join forces with state and national leaders in an ongoing effort to find new ways to bring broadband technology to every person in Texas.”

Connected Texas research has also shown the importance of digital literacy training, such as Connected Texas’ [Every Community Online](#) program, and availability of public computing centers such as libraries, to bridge the broadband adoption gap that was spotlighted at the two-day Conference and Colloquium. The event was co-hosted by Connected Texas and held at the University of Texas at Austin. Other summit sponsors include [Texas Connects Coalition](#), [The Technology and Public Policy Program at the LBJ School of Public Affairs - UT Austin](#), and the [Telecommunications and Information Policy Institute, UT Austin](#).

Highlight materials from the event can be found in the Summit section of the Connected Texas website at www.connectedtx.org/broadband-summit. The Connected Texas website serves as the central distribution center for free resources and information on Texas broadband access, adoption, and use. Online speed tests, interactive broadband maps, current research, and more are all available. For more information on Connected Texas and its many local programs, please email info@connectedtx.org or call (512) 660-2006.

###

About Connected Texas: Connected Texas is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access, adoption, and use across the state. Connected Texas was commissioned by the state to work with all Texas broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and development of a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: <http://www.connectedtx.org>.

Also follow **Connected Texas** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).