Commissioner Staples Confirmed as Texas Broadband Summit Keynote

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Agenda and event details announced for June's Texas Broadband Summit: 'Getting Every Community Online'

Austin, TX – Connected Texas today announced that Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples will serve as the keynote speaker for the Texas Broadband Summit, June 5, in Dallas. This unique statewide broadband conference is bringing together government, community, business and industry leaders with a focus of "Getting Every Community Online." The conference also will explore the economic opportunities broadband can offer Texas communities.

Registration is open and details are being confirmed for the state's very first Broadband Summit. The statewide event is being hosted by Connected Texas & the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) to kick off the TIA 2012: Inside the Network annual conference and exhibition.

"Commissioner Staples is a champion of broadband and we are thrilled to have him confirmed to speak about the ways high-speed Internet can shape our state's economic future," says Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. "Connected Texas research shows that less than half of the state's rural residents subscribe to broadband, which leaves thousands of rural Texans cut off from the economic, educational and quality of life opportunities available through a broadband connection. Our inaugural broadband summit is a major step toward spurring new technology jobs, innovation and closing that broadband gap in rural Texas."

The preliminary agenda reveals the event's focus on promoting and supporting broadband access, adoption and use across Texas, as well as tackling hot broadband topics like the FCC's Universal Service Fund. Two panels are planned to discuss Broadband Availability and Broadband Access respectively.

The Texas Broadband Summit: Getting Every Community Online is free. For details about the summit or to **register now**, please go to http://www.connectedtx.org/broadband-summit

When: Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Where: Gaylord Texan Hotel , 1501 Gaylord Trail , Dallas, TX 76051

Texas Broadband Summit attendees are also eligible for a special discount to attend TIA 2012 by using access code: CNAT12.

Yesterday, Connected Texas, in partnership with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and Intel, announced the launch of the Every Community Online *(*ECO) program which provides free computer and Internet training. Keep your eye on the Connected Texas Summit webpage for updates as new event details are released. For more information on the Connected Texas initiative, including the many ways you can support our work, please contact Executive Director Don Shirley at dshirley@connectedtx.org or 512.660.2006. Also, make sure to Follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook for continuing updates leading up to the big event.

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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**.

TIA 2012: Inside the Network, scheduled for June 5-7 at the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center in Dallas, Texas, is a unique industry event uniting a wide range of technology manufacturers and suppliers that form the foundation of the global communications network experience. The goal of the conference is to promote the growth of the telecommunications network by cultivating innovation and thought leadership. The event focuses on emerging opportunities and challenges in the business and technology of the Network. Learn more at tia2012.org.

Follow TIA 2012 on Facebook and Twitter.

The Telecommunications Industry Association represents the manufacturers and suppliers of global communications networks through standards development, policy and advocacy, business opportunities, market intelligence, and events and networking. TIA enhances the business environment for broadband, mobile/wireless, information technology, networks, cable, satellite and unified communications. Members' products and services empower communications in every industry and market. Visit tiaonline.org.