



Young County Welcomes Comprehensive Technology Plan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 26, 2013

Jeremy Thacker, (615) 521-5905 or jthacker@connectednation.org

Young County proclaims commitment to economic development and quality of life with Connected community technology action plan

Graham, TX – Young County, Texas now has an action plan to make way for greater technology use across the community and pave the way for a brighter economic future. The [Technology Action Plan](#) was unveiled as part of Young County's participation in the [Connected Community Engagement Program](#) through the Connected Texas initiative. Fifteen Texas communities are currently involved in some stage of the Connected program.

The occasion was marked with a public event on Tuesday at the Library of Graham. Young County community champion Cam Bennett of Fountain Oil Company expressed excitement with the plan's detailed actions for the future.

"After participating in a Connected community technology assessment, Young County and Graham now have a better understanding of how to expand and fully develop our broadband way of life," said Graham Industrial Association President and Community Champion Bennett. "In rural Texas, quality high-speed connections are more important than ever. Our educators need a connected array of online services to reap the benefits of student laptops and tablets, our hospitals and businesses need automation and Internet technologies to provide better patient care and customer loyalty, and with our Connected action plan the community will strive to for new economic and personal successes through digital opportunity. Thanks to our community team for supporting a charged effort to bring high-speed broadband to Young County and Graham."

Participating in the Connected program means Young County has gone through an extensive assessment of its overall broadband and technology innovation. The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity requirements to be worked towards that will support economic development and residential quality of life. Young County's top goals from the new plan are to perform an analysis of local policies and ordinances, develop public-private

partnerships to deploy local broadband service, study and possibly reassess major telecom purchase contracts, facilitate a technology summit, and develop a technology mentorship program.

“This Connected Technology Action Plan is a big key to success for both the present and the future of Young County,” said Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “Young County is helping lead the way for Texas communities that are serious about making sure it’s ready to benefit from all the economic and lifestyle opportunities that the digital age provides. It’s all part of Texas’ solid plans for future growth.”

The Connected program is part of the Connected Texas initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce NTIA State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program. Connected Texas is working to facilitate the access, adoption, and use of technology throughout the state to create a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, more efficient government, enhanced education, and improved quality of life. Residents are encouraged to get involved by joining their local Connected technology team and using the free [Every Community Online](#) program offered by Connected Texas to get training in computer and Internet skills which makes them eligible for discounted computers and home Internet service.

Photo caption: Bart Winegar of Connected Texas presents the new Young County Technology Action Plan to residents and community leaders in Graham, TX

#

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](#).



Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected Certified Communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>