



**NEXT GENERATION BROADBAND
POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PEOPLE**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2006

**ARROWWOOD RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

Presenter Backgrounds
and
Abstracts



BLANDIN FOUNDATION™
PUBLIC POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

PBS Viewing and Discussion Session

Wednesday, October 18, 8:00 pm

Facilitator:

Becca Vargo Daggett

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Background

Becca Vargo Daggett is the Director of the Municipal Telecom Project at ILSR. She has written broadband policy briefs for elected officials at the city and state level, led community meetings on the benefits of municipal broadband, and created financial models of citywide wireless networks for use by private companies and community groups. Prior to joining ILSR, Becca worked as network administrator in the private sector.

Moyers on America: The Net at Risk

The future of the Internet is up for grabs. Last year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) effectively eliminated net neutrality rules, which ensured that every content creator on the Internet—from big-time media concerns to backroom bloggers—had equal opportunity to make their voice heard. Now, large and powerful corporations are lobbying Washington to turn the World Wide Web into what critics call a "toll road," threatening the equitability that has come to define global democracy's newest forum. Yet the public knows little about what's happening behind closed doors on Capitol Hill.

Some activists describe the ongoing debate this way: A small number of mega-media giants owns much of the content and controls the delivery of content on radio and television and in the press; if we let them take control of the Internet as well, immune from government regulation, who will pay the price? Their opponents say that the best way to encourage Internet innovation and technological advances is to let the market—not the federal government—determine the shape of the system.

"The genius of the Internet was that it made the First Amendment a living document again for millions of Americans," says Robert McChesney, a media scholar and activist and co-author of *OUR MEDIA, NOT THEIRS*. "The decisions that we're going to be making ... are probably going to set our entire communication system, and, really, our entire society, on a course that it won't be able to change for generations."

For more information, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/moyersonamerica/index.html>

Opening Remarks

Thursday, October 19, 8:30 am

Jim Hoolihan

President, Blandin Foundation

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Background:

Jim Hoolihan was appointed president of Blandin Foundation April 22, 2004, and came on-board fulltime that June.

Hoolihan, 52, is a native of Grand Rapids, businessman and civic leader.

He was Grand Rapids three-term mayor from 1990 through 1995, Foundation board member from 1992 through 2003 and Foundation chair from 1996 through 1999. In 2002 he was named Citizen of the Year by the *Grand Rapids Herald Review*.

From 1981 until joining the Foundation, he was president of Industrial Lubricants Company and Can-Jer, a Grand Rapids based company providing industrial supplies and services to the logging, railroad, taconite and coal-mining industries. The Hoolihan family has owned the business for more than 60 years.

He has served on several civic boards and commissions including the Governor's Task Force on Mining and Minerals; the Taconite Production Tax Committee; United Way of Grand Rapids as campaign chair; Itasca County Family YMCA, as officer and board member; the Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital Foundation board; and chair of Itasca Development Corp/Jobs 2020.

Hoolihan holds a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law (1979), masters of business degree from the University of Minnesota (1978) and his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame (1975). He graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1971. In addition, he completed the Harvard Business School Program on Nonprofit Management in 1995.

He is a trustee of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and a trustee of the College of Saint Scholastica. He is married to Kathy Walter Hoolihan and is the father of three children.

Presentation of Minnesota Gubernatorial E-Debate

Thursday, October 19, 9:00 am

Steve Clift will summarize highlights of the gubernatorial e-debate hosted on the Internet by E-Democracy.Org as a lead-up to the conference.

Steven Clift

Board Chair, E-Democracy.Org

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Background

Steven Clift is Board Chair of E-Democracy.Org. As an E-Democracy public speaker and expert he has presented across 25 countries from Iceland to Mongolia. He was recently awarded an Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurship. Over the next three years he will be focused on growing E-Democracy.Org's network of local Issues Forums from their base in Minnesota and England.

Panel Spotlighting Broadband Generation Champions/Power Users:

Thursday, October 19, 9:30 am

Broadband visionaries will speak about cutting edge technologies needed to help ensure a continued quality of life and economically competitive future for Minnesota. Learn about technologies such as Slingbox – which allows you to broadcast television, cable, satellite, etc from your computer to others in remote places; telemetry applications for such high tech organizations as NASA and video-on-demand applications in higher education.

Facilitator:

Mike O'Connor

Technology Entrepreneur and Member, St. Paul Broadband Advisory Board
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Background

Mike O'Connor is a community organizer, entrepreneur and tech-geek turned business-leader type person. He has become moderately famous here in Minnesota as one of the people who popularized the Internet back in the mid-90's. These days Mike divides his semi-retired time between several technology ventures, freelance technology-leadership consulting with a variety of higher education institutions and Fortune 500 manufacturing firms, and a membership on the St Paul Broadband Advisory Committee.

Panelists:

Richard Laager

Graduate, University of Minnesota Crookston

Teresa Boucha

Student, University of Minnesota Crookston

Kelly Nelson

Graduate, University of Minnesota Crookston

Erick Hamness

Student, University of Minnesota Crookston

Shashanka Acharya

Student, University of Minnesota Crookston

Andrew Sheppard

Student, University of Minnesota Crookston

Keynote Presentation: Generation Next on Broadband

Thursday, October 19, 11:00 am

Generation Next (A.K.A. Generation Y) is that age group born in the 1980's and 90's. They are experiencing the Internet in new and innovative ways. Broadband initiatives are allowing this to happen. In this talk we look at the impact Broadband is having on this generation's social networking, entertainment, and education.

Martin Lundell

Assistant Professor of IT Management, U of MN Crookston

Crookston, Minnesota

Background

Martin Lundell currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Math, Science and Technology at The University of Minnesota, Crookston. He received his Bachelors degree in Psychology from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN, his Masters in Information Systems from Dakota State University in Madison, SD, and is completing his Ph.D. studies in Software Engineering at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. A native Minnesotan, he grew up on the north shore of Lake Superior in Two Harbors and understands the needs and challenges facing rural communities as it relates to technology.

His research interests include Agent-Oriented Software Engineering, Aspect-Oriented Software Development, education practices and technologies related to online education, and sustainable development activities in technology and energy for rural Minnesota.

David DeMuth

Associate Professor Physics; Math, Science & Technology Dept., U of MN Crookston

Crookston, Minnesota

Background

David DeMuth, Jr. is Associate Professor and Head at the Math, Science, Technology Department on the University of Minnesota, Crookston campus. Dr. DeMuth's completed his doctoral work in 1999 at the University of Minnesota in an area of experimental high energy astrophysics, conducting a neutrino analysis on 10 years of data recorded at the Soudan Underground Laboratory in Soudan, MN. He is currently partnering with University of North Dakota on a robotic telescope project in an effort to record optical remnants from deep space exotica (e.g. Gamma Ray Bursts) . David's interest in technology enhanced learning is most apparent in his online physics portal which includes a sophisticated real-time polling system optimized for a laptop environment. As a Frank W. Veden Fellow for economic and rural development, he and UMC students have developed open source web-based data systems including <http://localfoods.umn.edu>, <http://riverwatch.umn.edu> - David also serves on the GoMoorhead! WiFi steering committee in Moorhead, MN. The GoMoorhead! project was a recent recipient of the Blandin Foundation's Get Broadband Initiative.

Candidate Forum: Technology Talk Back

Thursday, October 19, 12:30 pm

An interactive session-live and via video conference – with gubernatorial candidates who will present their policy platforms and respond to audience questions on their view of role of broadband and broadband-based technology in Minnesota’s future.

Facilitator:

Milda Hedblom

Professor, Lawyer, Consultant
TISP Forum Director, HHH Institute of Public Affairs, U of MN

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dr. Hedblom is the Director of the Telecommunications and Information Society Policy Forum (TISP Forum), HHH Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota where she organizes and facilitates public forums. She offers services as a lawyer or as a consultant in telecommunications issues including new technology, wireless and fiber optic technologies. She offers legal advice on federal and state regulation and policy affecting provision of telecommunications and information services based on different technologies, as well as drafting of telecommunications policies and regulations on behalf of both public entities and private sector clients. She acts as a counselor for development of innovative approaches to technology and business development goals. As a mediator and arbitrator, Dr. Hedblom offers conflict resolution services.

Community Showcases

Thursday, October 19, 1:50 pm

Fifteen *Get Broadband* communities will showcase their projects through video clips.

Facilitator:

Bill Coleman

Community Technology Advisors

Mahtomedi, Minnesota

Background

Bill Coleman of Community Technology Advisors serves as coach for the communities involved in the Blandin Get Broadband Program. Bill combines experience in telecommunications and economic development to help communities improve their access to and use of broadband.

Achieving the Vision for the Broadband Generation

Thursday, October 19, 3:15 pm

Health care and education, two of the "killer applications" for broadband will be highlighted in this final discussion of the conference.

Facilitator:

Danna Asche

IT Director, Cook County

Grand Marais, Minnesota

Danna Asche is the Director of Information Systems for Cook County, Minnesota. She has worked on rural Internet access issues since the early 1990's and currently serves on the Blandin Broadband Strategy Board. In 1995 she co-founded a community cooperative non-profit ISP in Minnesota's Arrowhead which continues to thrive today providing wired and wireless broadband services to its members. She also chairs the board of Cook County Higher Education, a public project to bring post secondary education options to Cook County primarily through distance education services using broadband infrastructure.

Panelists:

Kim Ross

Superintendent, Houston School District #294

Houston, Minnesota

Background

Kim Ross, Superintendent of Houston Public Schools. Houston provides online educational services to students throughout the State of Minnesota with Minnesota Virtual Academy (MNVA) serving K-8 students and Minnesota Center of Online Learning (MCOOL) serving 9-12 students.

Karen Welle

Assistant Director, MN Dept of Health-Office of Rural Health/Primary Care

St. Paul, Minnesota

Background

Karen works to support the mission of the Office of Rural Health & Primary Care - to promote access to quality health care for rural and underserved Minnesotans. In support of that mission, she helps to identify and analyze rural health policy issues and recommend or pursue strategies. She believes one important strategy for bringing quality care to rural Minnesota is to connect health care providers to each other and to their patients via e-Health and telehealth initiatives. Karen received her BS in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine, and holds a Masters in Public Administration from Hamline University.

Closing Comments

Thursday, October 19, 4:30 pm

Bernadine Joselyn

Director, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation

Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Background

Bernadine Joselyn is Director of the Foundation's Public Policy & Engagement Program. Under her leadership, the Foundation is implementing two public policy initiatives: Vital Forests/Vital Communities, and the Blandin Broadband Initiative: Keeping Rural Communities Competitive.

Joselyn joined the Foundation in September 2001.

A Minnesota native, Joselyn has a masters degree in international affairs and a certificate in advanced Soviet studies from Columbia University. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a masters degree in public policy from the University's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. Joselyn served for seven years as a diplomat with the United States Department of State, including assignments in New Delhi India and Moscow Russia. She spent the better part of a decade living and working in Russia, including as Director of the Moscow office of the Eurasia Foundation, and Director of the Moscow office of the International Research and Exchanges Board.