

Connected Nation Expands Coalition of Broadband Experts and Advocates



Contact: Kasey McCrary
kmccrary@connectednation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2009

Numerous Leading Organizations and Businesses unite with Connected Nation's National Advisory Council to Accelerate Digital Inclusion for All Americans

Washington, DC: On the heels of Congressional passage of the Broadband Data Improvement Act and inclusion of full funding for the Act among the technology components in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Connected Nation is expanding its coalition of partners and advisors to accommodate the organization's national impact. Additions to Connected Nation's [National Advisory Council](#) include:

- American Academy of Nursing
- American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance
- Cisco Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: CSCO)
- Dell, Inc. (NASDAQ: DELL)
- Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)
- Internet Innovation Alliance (IIA)
- Microsoft Corporation (NASDAQ: MSFT)

Connected Nation's National Advisory Council includes U.S. technology leaders representing industry, labor, academia and government. Members support Connected Nation's efforts to improve digital inclusion for all people – especially in terms of access to and use of broadband and related technology.

“These companies and non-profit organizations represent a diverse group of interests united by the potential that exists for people in communities that have been previously underserved or overlooked.” said Brian Mefford, CEO of Connected Nation. “Together, we are working to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to realize the promise of technology, and we are proud to bring together a broad coalition that is working together to generate meaningful results.”

“The American Academy of Nursing realizes great value in accelerating the availability and use of broadband technologies,” says Pat Ford-Roegner, Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Nursing. Ford-Roegner has also joined Connected Nation's Board of Directors. According to Ford-Roegner, “I look forward to working with Connected Nation to expand the opportunities for nurses to care for more Americans through broadband-based applications and educational tools. Ensuring that type of opportunity for all Americans is an exciting prospect that I want to see as a reality.”

“Cisco is committed to connecting all Americans and empowering them to realize their full potential,” Jeff Campbell, Cisco's Senior Director, Technology and Trade Policy, said. “The partnership between Cisco

and Connected Nation is the logical response for our common goal to connect all Americans with the best technology. I look forward to working with the Connected Nation National Advisory Council to advance the programs and policies that will ensure America's leadership in technology-based growth.”

President Barack Obama and Congressional leaders have included full funding for the Broadband Data Improvement Act among various technology components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As a senator, President Obama was a key co-sponsor to the Broadband Data Improvement Act and has regularly stressed the imperative for the federal government to commit resources to state broadband efforts that will fund broadband mapping, grassroots demand aggregation, extensive research, and efforts to put computers into the hands of disadvantaged communities.

#

About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when individuals and communities have the opportunity and desire to connect. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for technology deployment and adoption. Connected Nation works with community stakeholders, states and technology providers to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered around a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked. For more information about Connected Nation, Inc., visit www.connectednation.org.