

Town of Andes  
Special Meeting- Cell Towers  
Andes Town Hall  
April 16, 2015 at 1:30PM

Present:

Supervisor Martin Donnelly  
Councilman Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone

Councilman Thomas Joyce  
Town Clerk Kimberly Tosi

Other:

Paula Brown-Congressman Chris Gibson's Office  
Andy Santacroce- Krydon Group  
Cheryl Peterson- Delaware County Times  
Glen Faulkner and Karen Munro- Margaretville Telephone Company  
Robert L. Chakar, Jr.- Andes Central School

Call to Order:

Supervisor Donnelly called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

\*Attached is the handout provided by Mr. Santacroce of the Krydon Group.

\*Where the funds will originate will be determined by what route the Town decides to take. Broadband may be an option. MTC was recently awarded \$2.9 million to expand fiber in the area. It was stated that there is a nationwide issue with children and families having access to high speed internet.

\*Andes Central School currently has standard cable modem services. Time Warner Cable is currently servicing the BOCES in the area, both DCMO and ONC. MTC subcontracts to provide to ACS because of our location.

\*Putting a tower here with connectivity to the fiber may provide an incentive to carriers.

\*MTC spoke to the fact that they recognize the importance of having productive relationships with cell carriers. Landlines are a dying business. They can provide the fiber connectivity sources to towers. MTC has tried to get carriers to come to Margaretville and the surrounding areas. They were able to find and lease a location and build a tower with an independent company, after the flooding in 2011 brought so much attention to the area. Since then, they have been trying to get similar developments in Grand Gorge, etc. however carriers have been non-committal.

\*Mr. Santacroce stated that he has investigated the sites provided to him for the potential locations of the cell towers. He felt that the best location would be the hill behind the school.

\*It was brought up that Delaware County Emergency Services is building a tower on Bobcat. They may entertain a private carrier.

\*MTC has a lease for a location on Palmer Hill which can be considered as well as Herr Road.

\*Paula Brown, a representative from Congressman Gibson's office, stated that many small towns in the area are having similar problems.

\*Dr. Chakar suggested that perhaps MTC could come to an ONC BOCES meeting to discuss the Smart Growth funds that may be available to schools.

\*It was suggested that all of the towns in the county, who are having the new emergency towers built, could band together to bring all of the towers to a company. It may be more appealing to a carrier.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40PM



JUNE 5, 2014 Albany, NY

# Governor Cuomo Announces First-Ever New York State Broadband Champion Award Winners

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the winners of the first-ever New York State Broadband Champion Awards, which recognize high-achieving leaders that work to expand broadband access across the state. The winners were honored at the second State Broadband Summit, which highlighted the important issues around broadband expansion and access. The Summit, held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, brought together more than 300 national, state, and local broadband leaders, as well as decision makers in the broadband and technology sectors, who discussed emerging technologies and exciting developments in the industry.

Access to high-speed internet is crucial to helping businesses compete and communities to remain connected in the 21st century economy, Governor Cuomo said. At our second Broadband Summit, state officials came together with industry leaders to identify ways to strengthen broadband services and eliminate barriers to expanding internet coverage in underserved parts of the State. This is another example of how our administration is working to improve vital services, and I look forward to seeing this productive dialogue continue to yield results for New Yorkers.

The event is part of the New York State Broadband initiative and the effort to increase broadband availability and adoption statewide. It builds on the Governors accomplishments in expanding broadband across New York, including the deployment of more than \$68 million for broadband projects the largest statewide broadband commitment funding in the nation. Through these investments, more than 160,000

households, 8,000 businesses, and 400 community anchor institutions will have access to high-speed broadband services.

The Summit included keynote addresses by Kenneth Adams, President, CEO & Commissioner of Empire State Development; Jonathan Adelstein, President and Chief Executive Officer, PCIA - The Wireless Infrastructure Association and former FCC Commissioner; Daniel Kent, U.S. Public Sector Chief Technology Officer, Cisco Systems; and Joe Reardon, Former Kansas City Mayor and Attorney at Law, McAnany, Van Cleave & Phillips, P.A.

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams said, Statewide broadband access is an important step toward creating jobs and growing our local economies. As we explore both the challenges and the opportunities at this year's summit, we are encouraged by the tremendous response we've seen from stakeholders and industry leaders who are stepping up to ensure broadband is available in every corner of New York State.

The Broadband Champion Awards were presented to state broadband leaders who have performed outstanding work in the industry and have made a significant impact on advancing broadband access and adoption in New York. One winner was awarded with a Champion Award in each of the following categories:

**Broadband Leadership Award** Phil Wagschal, Slic Network Solutions (North Country Region)

The Extraordinary Broadband Leadership Award is presented to an individual or company who has provided a major influence on the direction and success of broadband development in New York State, and has dedicated their time and leadership abilities to establish successful practices, which expand broadband infrastructure. Mr. Wagschal has been a leader in bringing Internet connectivity to rural New York for more than 25 years. He was the creative force that grew Nicholville Telephones local Internet access provider from conventional dial-up to the fastest-in-the-nation technology and continues to lead technical and local market efforts today. His vision for broadband and his dedication to

bringing it to fruition in rural New York might be best exemplified by his companys pursuit and receipt of Federal Stimulus Funding as well as several New York State broadband grants, including Connect NY, which have afforded the installation of more than 800 miles of middle-mile and last-mile fiber to extend broadband reach to 6,000 unserved or underserved homes.

### **Most Innovative Broadband Project** Queens Library (NYC Region)

The Most Innovative Broadband Project Award identifies a leading-edge product, service, application, project or program that has an emphasis on fueling New Yorks digital economy, while allowing citizens to be connected. Queens Library created a customized interface for Google Tablets that were donated to be circulated, without charge, to those who obtain library membership. The customized interface makes it possible to use the tablets with or without Wi-Fi access, while promoting digital literacy. The tablets serve as gateway devices for those who are not comfortable with technology, and are icon-driven for individuals with limited literacy and/or English skills. As a result, it puts thousands of broadband access points into the hands of those who need them.

### **Most Collaborative Broadband Project/Program** Clarity Connect, Inc.; Tompkins County; and Cayuga Counties (Southern Tier Region)

The Most Collaborative Broadband Project Award acknowledges a project or initiative that has increased statewide Internet use and/or promotes computer digital literacy, while making a substantial impact on broadband subscription rates in New York State. Clarity Connect, Inc. will expand last-mile service to over 95% of unserved residents and businesses in Tompkins and Cayuga counties, while simultaneously addressing subscription rates and digital literacy. The project has fostered collaborative efforts with a variety of stakeholders and partners from the private sector to K-12 and higher education, to government, workforce agencies, and community non-profits. The project will expand

broadband services to an estimated population of more than 5,700 households, 50 businesses, and 120 Community Anchor Institutions.

**Best Broadband Adoption Initiative/Program** The City of New York's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (NYC Region)

The Best Broadband Adoption Program Award recognizes a project that has had a great impact on computer digital literacy. The City of New York's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications utilized competitive grant funds to launch three complimentary programs to provide low-income residents with access to computers, broadband, and an array of training programs and resources to support digital literacy and job readiness. Together, these initiatives have served over 28,000 students with free computers; reached 12,000 families; and provided professional development for teachers to facilitate technology use in teaching and learning in 144 schools. These projects also opened or enhanced 100 public computer centers, installed more than 2,000 computer workstations, and delivered more than half a million hours of digital literacy, job readiness, and other training.

**Economic Leadership Award** Southern Tier Network (Southern Tier Region)

The Economic Leadership Award celebrates the successful implementation of innovative, economically promising projects or programs in a community or region) that enhance New York's social and economic fabric, and quality of life for its residents. The Southern Tier Network is a not-for-profit local development corporation, which owns and operates a 280-mile Open Access dark fiber backbone throughout three counties within New York State's Southern Tier Region. Construction began on network in the summer of 2012, but due to the demand and desire service providers have placed upon this project, sustainability projections are now expected to be achieved within less than a two year time period. Local school districts have benefited from a dramatic reduction in service

costs, an increase in bandwidth capabilities, and healthcare providers in particular have improved health care delivery, electronic data record keeping, and reduction in operation costs. This recipient has also generated an additional \$6.5 million in private investment within the community as a direct result of their Open Access Network.

The Broadband Summit also featured updates on the New York State Broadband Initiative, and included several breakout sessions ranging from developing a regional broadband strategy, broadband for economic development and new research, broadband adoption for older adults, addressing digital access, industry best practices for broadband deployment, using broadband as an attraction tool for innovation sector companies, and more.

Since Governor Cuomo took office in 2011, New York State has achieved a significant number of accomplishments and experienced substantial growth in increasing broadband access. In March 2013, the Governor awarded \$25 million to eighteen broadband projects sponsors to expand high-speed Internet access in rural upstate and underserved urban areas of New York through the Connect NY Broadband Grant Program. The award, combined with additional broadband funding awarded for broadband projects during Governor Cuomos administration and through programs like the Regional Economic Development Council initiative, brings the total amount of funding to more than \$68 million, the largest statewide broadband funding commitment in the nation.

Together, the Regional Council and Connect NY projects will bring broadband service to approximately 160,000 households, 8,000 businesses and 400 anchor institutions many without any means to access the Internet, across more than 6,000 square miles of New York State. Most of the funding will be for the last-mile of broadband service, which means the projects will provide high speed Internet connections directly to New Yorkers. The last-mile is the most expensive portion of a broadband network, and often prevents many rural residents from receiving broadband service, even when service is available to nearby homes.

The Broadband Program Office also recently appointed members to the states first Broadband Availability and Broadband Adoption Task Forces. The first meetings of the

two newly established task forces to address broadband availability and broadband adoption were held January 29-30, 2014. The task forces are comprised of local and state leaders, members of the broadband provider community and adoption partners, and were created to develop strategies to accelerate high-speed broadband deployment and advance New York States broadband availability goals, and address affordability, awareness, digital literacy, and the use of broadband for commercial and institutional use.





## Broadband Program Office

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### ACCELERATING BROADBAND EXPANSION TO NEW YORK'S MOST RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Rural Electrification Act (REA) is the program celebrated for bringing public power to rural America in the 1930s when President Franklin Roosevelt realized that if utility companies were not willing to invest in rural pockets of the nation, it would take Government money to make it happen.

A picture that seems all too familiar for many rural consumers today as broadband continues to be slow to arrive in New York's most remote areas. In New York, more than 1,000,000 or 5% of people cannot access speeds of 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload. These New Yorkers have been left behind because either their homes are too far apart or New York's diverse terrain makes construction too expensive or difficult.

Like the REA, money from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped jump start broadband expansion in many parts of the nation including New York. In 2009, New York was awarded more than \$150 million in federal broadband stimulus funding. In addition, Governor Cuomo recently committed \$27 million for broadband expansion, giving an added boost to bring high-speed Internet services to unserved and underserved areas of our State.

Just as society in the 1930's demanded electricity, today's society and economy requires high-speed Internet access. But despite significant steps to accelerate deployment and adoption over the past years, are we at a moment in history reminiscent of the 1930s when so many rural American's lacked access to electrical service? What else must government do to encourage broadband providers to invest in our State's less densely populated regions when low population densities and low profit margins may not justify extending last mile services?

[aliotta's blog](#)



STATE OF NEW YORK | EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

ANDREW M. CUOMO | GOVERNOR

**For Immediate Release:** September 17, 2014

## **GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES SMART SCHOOLS COMMISSION HOSTS SECOND PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM**

### ***Experts Convene in Buffalo to Present Best Practices in Connectivity and Technology-Enabled Education and Learning***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the Smart Schools Commission sponsored its second Public Symposium, in Buffalo, to convene technology and education experts who explored innovative, successful approaches to school and community connectivity and technology-enabled education practices. The Smart Schools Commission is responsible for advising the State on how to best invest the Governor's proposed \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act in order to enhance teaching and learning through technology. The Governor proposed the Smart Schools initiative during his 2014 State of the State in order to reimagine New York's public schools for the 21st Century.

"Technology is driving children to communicate, explore and learn differently, and we must do everything we can to ensure that our schools are prepared to meet this new reality," Governor Cuomo said. "Folding technology into our schools is crucial in advancing the achievement of New York State's students, and by actively engaging with education and technology experts, the Smart Schools Commission is helping to create 21st Century classrooms in our schools."

The Symposium was attended by Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy and featured a panel of technology experts who responded to questions by the Smart Schools Commission, which is composed of Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman and Former CEO of Google, Geoffrey Canada, President of Harlem Children's Zone and Constance Evelyn, Superintendent of the Auburn School District in Cayuga County. The community is encouraged to submit additional input on the Smart Schools Commission [website](#); its findings will be incorporated in a final report published later this year.

The [first public symposium](#) was held on July 21 in Albany. There, five panelists highlighted to the Commission and community members the need and ability to: enrich the in-classroom learning experience by incorporating the use of tablets, laptops and smartphones; extend preparation for student instruction by using web-based software accessible at home; increase communication between the instructor and student's guardian; provide more descriptive academic progress reporting; and to support these changes, build a robust network of high-speed broadband and wi-fi connectivity throughout New York's public schools and communities.

Today, the panel of five technology and education experts promoted the themes of the first symposium, with a strong focus on the need for better broadband access in public schools across New York State, especially in rural communities, and how national research can assist in removing roadblocks to promoting digital learning. The panel also agreed that accessible connectivity is crucial to delivering high-quality STEM education, which ultimately supports the State's burgeoning nanotechnology, biotechnology and energy industries.

Evan Marwell, CEO of EducationSuperHighway, said, "It is critical that we provide all students across America equal access to the high-speed connectivity they need for a world-class, 21st Century education. We are thrilled that Governor Cuomo, the Smart Schools Commission and many other partners across the state are taking steps to provide the broadband necessary for all New York students to benefit from a rich digital education."

John Windhausen, Jr., Executive Director of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition, said, "High-capacity broadband is an absolute necessity for every school and school classroom. Students need to develop the skills to use technology for social good and innovation and not just for entertainment. Providing high-speed Internet connections will enable personalized learning, digital skills instruction and technology-savvy students ready for college and the 21st Century economy."

Today's symposium speakers were selected based diverse geographical, technological, disciplinary and experiential backgrounds, and included:

- **David Salway**, Director of the New York State Broadband Program Office, serves as broadband advisor to the Governor's office. In his position, he has expanded the scope of the Broadband Program Office to include additional functions such as public outreach and support of Regional Economic Development Councils Broadband Strategies. As the State's single point of contact on all matters related to broadband, he oversees all broadband grant programs, including the Governor's \$25 million Connect NY Broadband Grant Program, as well as meets with Federal and State policy makers to advance and promote broadband issues, including infrastructure build-out and digital literacy efforts and Chairs the Broadband Availability and Broadband Adoption Task Force Committees.
- **Tiffany Zhou**, Strategic Analysis Manager at EducationSuperHighway, leads research and analysis projects focused on Federal policy and state strategies for broadband. Zhou was the primary author of "Connecting America's Students: Opportunities for Action," an in-depth report of the FCC's E-rate program and broadband pricing trends which has critically shaped the dialogue on E-rate reform. Currently, she is leading the analysis of state network solutions in EducationSuperHighway's engagements with Virginia and Arkansas.
- **John Windhausen, Jr.** is Executive Director of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition, a diverse group of community anchor institutions, broadband companies, foundations and public interest groups that advocate for open, affordable, high-capacity broadband for anchor institutions and their communities around the country. Windhausen additionally heads Telepoly Consulting, which represents a variety of non-profit and commercial organizations and previously served as President of the Association for

Local Telecommunications Services, senior counsel to the United States Senate Commerce Committee and staff attorney at the Federal Communications Commission.

- **Brenda Lehman**, Technology Coordinator for Gananda Central and Marcus Whitman Central School Districts, supports technology across two school districts in Ontario and Wayne Counties. Lehman leads an initiative to improve infrastructure to support modern teaching and learning aimed at leveling the school districts to 21<sup>st</sup> Century standards, while also mapping the progress so that it may be scaled across other school districts.
- **Dr. Peter Turner**, Dean of Arts & Sciences at Clarkson University, has been a leading figure in STEM education and in educational outreach activities at Clarkson University for more than a decade. Turner has been especially influential in developing partnerships with school districts and BOCES in the North Country, which are increasingly dependent on broadband connectivity between the classroom and home. The latter is especially true for the college readiness summer preparation program offered free to all incoming Clarkson University students. On a broader level, Turner is deeply involved in several national initiatives on STEM college readiness, curricular development and transition to college.

A full video of the second symposium, files of the speakers' presentations, a tool to see what funds each school district would receive and a place for the community to submit suggestions can be found on the Smart Schools Commission website [HERE](#).

### **About the Smart Schools Commission**

The Smart Schools Commission is charged with advising the State on how to best enhance teaching and learning through technology. The Governor instated the Commission in spring 2014 in order to reimagine New York's public schools for the 21st Century. Access to advanced technology fosters a more interactive and personalized classroom experience while facilitating increased communication between parents, students, and teachers. Embracing innovation in education is an important step towards helping New York's students gain the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century economy.

Members of the Smart Schools Commission include:

**Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman and Former CEO of Google:** Mr. Schmidt joined Google in 2001 and helped grow the company from a Silicon Valley startup to a global leader in technology. He served as Google's Chief Executive Officer from 2001-2011, overseeing the company's technical and business strategy alongside founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page. Under his leadership Google dramatically scaled its infrastructure and diversified its product offerings while maintaining a strong culture of innovation.

**Geoffrey Canada, President of Harlem Children's Zone:** In his 30 years with Harlem Children's Zone, Inc., Mr. Canada has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. The New York Times Magazine called Harlem Children's Zone "one of the most ambitious social policy experiments of our time." In October 2005, Mr. Canada was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News and World Report, and Fortune recently named him one of the "World's Greatest 50 Leaders."

**Constance Evelyn, Superintendent of the Auburn School District in Cayuga County:** Ms. Evelyn has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Auburn Enlarged City School District since August 2012. Prior to serving as Superintendent she has held a variety of leadership positions in Upstate schools, including the Ithaca City School District, Oswego City Schools, Rome City Schools, and Bedford Central School District.

To find out more about the Smart Schools Commission and submit comments and suggestions, please visit <http://www.governor.ny.gov/smart-schools-ny>.

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