

Connected Nation Contact: Tom Stephenson

For Immediate Release April 27, 2017

Role: Community Technology Advisor

Email: tstephenson@connectednation.org

Phone number: 248-376-4046

Local Contact: James A. Lorenson, President, Gogebic Community College

Email: jiml@gogebic.edu

Phone number: (906) 932-4231, ext. 200

Gogebic County Broadband Initiative: Developing a Plan to Benefit Schools, Business, and Public Safety

Gogebic County, MI. (April 27, 2017) – Ten minutes is all it takes for you to help us better connect Gogebic County. The Gogebic County Broadband Committee has partnered with Connected Nation's community engagement program, Connected, to come up with a plan to improve everyone's access to high speed Internet.

We're asking agriculture county residents, local town residents, businesses, librarians, schools, and other stakeholders to complain, compliment, and explain just how well their internet is or is not working.

"Gogebic Community College is pleased to be working with Connect Michigan, the Western UP Regional Prosperity Initiative, the communications industry, and others, including our higher education partners, in identifying and enhancing broadband expansion opportunities in Gogebic County," James A. Lorenson, President, Gogebic Community College, said.

"This work benefits our schools and higher education, communities, business and industry, and public safety. Improving access to technology will strengthen our region economically and improve services to county residents. This project is a great leap forward," Lorenson explained.

Taking part in the online survey (www.connectmycommunity.org/gogebic-county) will help us understand the status of high-speed broadband Internet access, adoption, and use in Gogebic County. After a structured evaluation of this assessment, we'll develop appropriate action plans and projects to effectively and efficiently improve Gogebic County's broadband environment.

"Getting everyone's input – from parents to educators to businesses to the agricultural community – is key in helping us develop a Technology Action Plan that meets the unique needs of Gogebic County," Tom Stephenson, Community Technology Advisory for Connected Nation's community engagement program, said. "The more input we get, the more likely we are able to identify ways to create broadband access, adoption, and use to ensure that no one in Gogebic County is left out."

To take the survey head to: www.connectmycommunity.org/gogebic-county. Please feel free to link this on your websites and share with your social media connections.

###

About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a leading technology organization committed to bringing affordable high-speed Internet and broadband-enabled resources to all Americans.

Connected Texas is a locally-driven effort to live out Connected Nation's mission to bring access to all families so no one is left on the wrong side of the "Digital Divide."

Connected Nation works with consumers, local community leaders, states, technology providers, and foundations to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered on a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked. For more information, please visit: www.connectednation.org/. Follow Connected Nation on Facebook and Twitter.