

## Press Release



East Central Illinois  
Development Corporation

*Fostering* Regional Economic Development



Broadband Illinois/PCI

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### **Regional Broadband Summit in South East Central Illinois**

Are you a community leader concerned about adequate broadband (high-speed Internet) access for your local schools, businesses and community organizations? Do you have sufficient broadband access at your residence? Would you like to see more of your community members utilize broadband for improved public safety and medical diagnostic services, greater educational opportunities, and increased business development? Attend a regional Broadband Summit co-hosted by East Central Illinois Development Corporation (ECIDC) and Broadband Illinois/Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI) to learn what public and private entities at the local, state, and federal level are doing to address broadband access and adoption needs in the region.

The South East Central Illinois Broadband Summit will be held Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Education Center of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System, 1000 Health Center Drive, Mattoon. It will bring together broadband vendors, industry experts, government representatives, and community leaders to explore existing and future broadband services for residents, businesses, and communities in the region.

Exhibitors and presenters will offer information about broadband service options and planned broadband expansion projects in the region. This will include presentations by representatives of PCI, Illinois Century Network, Illinois Rural Health Net, Consolidated Communications, Frontier Communications, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Metro Communications, and many others. Barbara Webster, South East Central Broadband Illinois Coordinator, will provide an update on broadband planning efforts and support services in the region. "I have lived in this region all my life, and I want my three children to be able to find jobs here after graduating college", said Barbara Webster. "I believe Broadband is an important piece of the economic development puzzle."

Broadband Illinois/PCI is a non-profit organization based in Springfield with a three-fold mission: (a) to collect and publish broadband data, (b) to ensure broadband access throughout the State, and (c) to maximize broadband's impact and use. ECIDC is also a non-profit organization focused on positive economic growth and an enhanced quality of life for all residents in its 11-county region (Christian, Clark, Coles, Crawford,

Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Jasper, Moultrie and Shelby Counties). PCI's South East Central Region includes most ECIDC counties and also the counties of Clay, Fayette, Lawrence, Marion, and Richland. PCI and ECIDC have joined forces to promote high-speed Internet access and use in the area.

“Members have been concerned about the access and quality of broadband services in our rural communities for more than a decade”, said ECIDC President Stepheny McMahon. “Utilizing broadband and expanding its access to all areas in the region is vital to our economic growth and remaining competitive in the global marketplace”.

The public is invited to attend. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. Please **register online by visiting [www.ecidc.com](http://www.ecidc.com) or** by contacting Jean Anne Grunloh, ECIDC Executive Director, at (217) 540-3517 or [jgrunloh@lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:jgrunloh@lakeland.cc.il.us). **Registration deadline is November 24, 2011.**

For more information on the regional Broadband Summit or the services of ECIDC and PCI, please visit [www.ecidc.com](http://www.ecidc.com) and [www.broadbandillinois.org](http://www.broadbandillinois.org).