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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Online registration available for Kansas Broadband Summit

*Summit to convene business, civic, policy leaders
to discuss broadband Internet expansion in Kansas*

Online registration is now available for the Kansas Broadband Summit, which will take place Oct. 24-25 at the Wichita Marriot, at www.connectkansas.org/broadband_summit/.

The 2010 Kansas Broadband Summit will bring together industry, community organizations, government leaders and the public to explore Kansas' broadband landscape. The goals of the summit include:

- Informing stakeholders about the National Broadband Plan and the future of broadband nationally and across Kansas.
- Providing a venue for discussion of broadband's implication on healthcare, education, economic development, government service and related areas.
- Providing a roadmap of how Kansas will foster statewide availability and adoption of quality broadband services.

The Kansas Broadband Summit is open to the public and welcomes a range of individuals, including:

- State and local legislators, administrators and regulators
- Educational institutions, K-12 and higher learning
- Library and community anchor institution managers
- Hospitals, physicians and other healthcare providers
- Economic development organizations and regional planning foundations
- Information technology councils and boards
- Nonprofit associations
- Public safety professionals and organizations
- Private-sector telecommunications, technology and service suppliers

Presented by the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Summit is part of the Connect Kansas initiative to increase broadband Internet availability and adoption in the state's underserved and un-served areas. The initiative is funded by a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration through the Recovery Act, which has invested \$7.2 billion to help states undertake broadband expansion efforts to ensure all citizens can access the economic and quality-of-life benefits of high-speed Internet.

"With the announcement last week that Kansas will be awarded a second grant from the NTIA, the summit takes on greater importance because the additional funding means that the initiatives we launched will be sustainable over several years and allow us to achieve tangible results," said Stan Adams, Broadband Planning Manager for the Department of Commerce.

Launched in 2009, the NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) grant program implements the joint purposes of the Recovery Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act, which envisioned a comprehensive

program, led by state agencies or non-profit organizations working at their direction, to facilitate the integration of broadband technology into state and local economies.

To date, the State of Kansas has been awarded \$6.4 million under the SBDD grant program to execute data collection, mapping and sustainability planning activities.

For more information, visit www.connectkansas.org or contact Joe Monaco, Public Information Officer with the Kansas Department of Commerce, at (785) 296-3760 or jmonaco@kansascommerce.com.

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