

## **NTIA Conference 2015**

### **Special Maine Broadband Announcement**

**Deb Socia:** That was another amazing Panel, and highlighting the differences and parallels between cities and rural towns is very interesting to me. Art, I thank you so much for giving me a promotion, but I really just was part of the team and my role was to talk about digital equity, so I just wanted to clarify.

Just so we continue on the theme of seven degrees of Emy Tseng, she was my BTOP Program Manager and a great one at that.

I checked to see how many people we have here today, we have over 275. That's pretty amazing. We brought 150 of these magazines, which means not everybody gets one, I'm sorry, but this the magazine that Chris referred to. The good news is Broadband Communities makes these available online for free and you should sign up for it. In this particular one there is actually an article about the Next Century Cities policy agenda and so I join Chris in recommending that you participate.

I do want to say real quickly that I'm really pleased to say my home town actually joined Next Century Cities and they're here today. I was born in New Bedford and I am so excited to have New Bedford here with us today. We have about ten of our communities represented and I appreciate that very much.

It's my honor now to bring up Jim Nimon, the Executive Director of the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council. Jim's going to share a special announcement with us.

**Jim Nimon:** Thank you Deb. Good late morning to you, I realize now that Deb and I stand in the way of you all getting your lunch so I promise to be brief. Deb did mention the Economic Growth Council and we are here with the City of Sanford to make an announcement in a few minutes, and a press conference in the York Room. We are announcing our plans to build a 32-mile municipal broadband network with optical fiber. For those that think bigger matters, it is going to be the largest network in the state, and it's also the first major connection to our middle mile project that you've heard about this morning, the Three Ring Binder.

This is a public private partnership, it's a word you've heard a lot. It matters, we are not running off by ourselves. It's taking a lot of incremental steps in the past two years, but again today we announce that and if you're familiar with the proverb—after enlightenment laundry. So we have some laundry to work on, but we do plan to announce at that press conference our private sector partners. They are in the audience with us today, and you're welcome to join us in the York Room to learn more about that. I'm also on the Panel later today and we'll say more at that time.

Thank you very much, we're so glad to be here today.

**Deb Socia:** We are pretty excited that Sanford has also agreed to join Next Century Cities. Thank you.

It is lunchtime and we have a buffet lunch. The doors will part and you will be able to get your lunch, come back in here and enjoy some networking time for about 30 minutes or so, at which time we will have our lunchtime Keynote and you really don't want to miss that. Thank you so much and enjoy your lunch.

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