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SYBAC STUDENTS MEET WITH STATE LAWMAKERS & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ICN provides students with opportunity to discuss broadband and technology with state leaders.

Des Moines (02/15/17) – High school students from across Iowa experienced the opportunity on Tuesday to meet with elected officials at the State Capitol to discuss the importance of strong reliable broadband in their daily lives. The 11 student participants are part of the 2016-2017 Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC) founded by the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). SYBAC members act in an advisory capacity and provide the ICN and elected leaders insight into the use of technology by today's youth and how the increased use of technology in schools affects their education.

On Tuesday the students were briefed by elected officials on current topics relating to technology. Those initiatives include cybersecurity, encryption technology, two-factor authentication, and bandwidth in schools. SYBAC members interacted with legislators at a forum where they shared their perspectives on technology. Participating legislators included: State Representatives Zach Nunn (R-Polk County), Sharon S. Steckman (D-Cerro Gordo County), Stan Gustafson (R-Madison County); along with State Senators Amanda Ragan (D-Cerro Gordo County) and Randy Feenstra (R-Sioux County).

The ICN started the SYBAC program as a way to engage Iowa students on technology issues. The students are given the opportunity to learn about state initiatives and educational opportunities in addition to sharing their opinions. ICN Executive Director Ric Lumbard told the students, "The technology that you are touching now isn't just 'gaming' from a trivial perspective, it is some of the most dynamic industry points with graphics and programming."

In addition to meeting with elected officials at the statehouse, SYBAC students had a special visitor to their monthly meeting at ICN headquarters. Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds participated in a table discussion with the students on a range of topics including cybersecurity, the Internet of Things (IoT), expanding broadband availability in rural areas, and future internship opportunities for students in Iowa. "If we are going to be successful as a State and keep our young people, [broadband] is critical. If you don't have the connectivity or bandwidth it isn't going to help." Reynolds said.

The video of the February 14 SYBAC meeting is available for the public to view online at the following url: <https://youtu.be/ALJb2OdkzoY>

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RIC LUMBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SYBAC students pose for a photo with Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and ICN Leadership prior to the SYBAC meeting at ICN.



SYBAC students meet with elected officials and ICN Executive Director inside State Capitol on Tuesday.

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SYBAC students interact with elected officials inside State Capitol on Tuesday.

About Iowa Communications Network (ICN)

The ICN is BROADBAND STRONG; delivering FLEXIBLE broadband and FAST experiences to meet the growing broadband needs of education, government, public safety, and healthcare in Iowa. The ICN administers the state-wide fiber optic network; providing high-speed Internet, data, IP video, and voice services. The ICN transport network is 100% fiber, which is the leading technology for telecommunications networks everywhere in the world.

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