

**Welcome to The National Association of
Telecommunications Officers and Advisors!**



***Promoting community interests in
communications.***

**NATOa's 27th Annual Conference
Promoting Community Interests in Communications
Has Begun in Portland, OR**

Special Conference Announcement - Wednesday October 3

***NATOa Announces Recipients of Community Broadband Awards for
Outstanding Endeavors to Bring Broadband to More Consumers***

Portland, OR – October 3, 2007 – During the Opening General Session of their 27th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, the NATOa Board of Directors announced the recipients of NATOa's first Community Broadband Awards. The prestigious awards are given to exceptional leaders and innovative initiatives that champion broadband deployment in local communities across the nation.

"NATOa applauds all of our award recipients - the people, communities and organizations - that are exemplary in their efforts to make broadband happen, one person and one community at a time," said NATOa Executive Director, Libby Beaty.

The award recipients were chosen based on their extraordinary efforts, achievements and innovation in community-based approaches to broadband. These individuals, organizations, and communities have worked hard to ensure that more American consumers experience the benefits of this important technology.

"Our honorees recognize that local governments are an essential part of planning and deploying America's broadband future," said NATOa President, Lori Panzino-Tillery. "In spite of the lack of a national broadband policy and the Goliaths out there trying to hinder their progress, local governments and our visionary friends are courageously leading the way on this important issue. They're making the hard decisions and finding creative ways to bring

broadband to more local communities across the country."

The 2007 award recipients are:

- * *Community Broadband Hero of the Year*
Commissioner Jon Leibowitz, Federal Trade Commission, for visionary and resolute support of localism and local prerogatives in community broadband.
- * *Community Broadband Visionary of the Year*
James Baller, Baller Herbst Law Group, for almost single-handedly putting the issue of the need for a national broadband strategy to the forefront of public consciousness.
- * *Community Broadband Project of the Year*
 - o **PhiladelphiaWireless — City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for setting off a wave of community wireless projects and leading the way for other communities to develop and deploy broadband technology.**
 - o **Pulaski Fiber to the Home Community Network — City of Pulaski, Tennessee, for planning and building an innovative fiber-to-the-premises network to secure the economic future of its community and residents.**
- * *Community Network of the Year*
National Capital Region Interoperability Program I-Nets Project, for its innovative use of community institutional networks to protect public safety and promote emergency communications. The Project is an exemplary partnership between local governments and the Federal Department of Homeland Security that interconnects 19 jurisdictions in three states surrounding our nation's capital.
- * *Community Broadband Organization of the Year*
Clinton Global Initiative and Cisco Connected Communities, for their joint initiatives to demonstrate the efficacy of community fiber networking in bringing down CO₂ emissions.

After opening remarks from NATOA leadership and local officials, several of the award recipients participated in a discussion on the importance of and need for a national broadband policy. For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA's efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit www.natoa.org.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.