



**NC HEARTS GIGABIT**  
An Interactive  
Idea Exchange

April 20, 2018 | NC Rural Economic Development Center



# Agenda

9:00 – 9:30 AM Pre-session networking time

9:30 - 10:00 AM

## WELCOME

NC Broadband Matters Board of Directors

Patrick Woodie President and CEO, NC Rural Center

Commissioner Sig Hutchinson Vice Chair, Wake County Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Roy Cooper Governor, State of North Carolina

10:00 – 11:05 AM

## BUILD IT

*Showcasing how local communities have built modern broadband networks from the grassroots up by exhaustively assessing options and then making hard decisions. Featuring private service providers, public-private partnerships, small ISPs, co-op models and more.*

**Moderator:** Mark Johnson CTO, MCNC

Adam Eisner VP Networks, Ting/Holly Springs, NC

Alan Fitzpatrick CEO, Open Broadband

Eric Cramer President & CEO, Wilkes Communications/  
RiverStreet Networks

Hunter Goosmann Executive Director, ERC

Jane Nickles CIO, City of Greensboro

11:15 – 12:30 PM

## FINANCE IT

*What do community leaders need to know about financing network build-out? Federal and state funding options, creative private financing, and new tools under development will be discussed.*

**Moderator:** Jeff Sural Director, NC Broadband Infrastructure Office

Dan Gerlach President, Golden LEAF Foundation

Joanne Hovis CEO, Coalition for Local Internet Choice

Jordana Barton Senior Advisor, Dallas Federal Reserve

Mark DeFalco Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission



# Notes

12:30 – 1:45 PM

## KEYNOTE LUNCH: BROADBAND LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY ECONOMY

**Introduction:** Jane Smith Patterson Partner, Broadband Catalysts

**Keynote Speaker:** The Honorable James B. Hunt 69th and 71st Governor of North Carolina

2:00 – 3:30 PM

## USING IT

*If you build gigabit networks, do the high-tech jobs automatically follow? How do public officials approach infrastructure investment for the digital era? Policy experts and community development leaders offer strategic approaches to using broadband to deploy essential public services—healthcare, education, safety and other government services—that are also conducive to building local environments that attract and create jobs and support workforce development.*

**Session Introduction:** Representative Craig Horn North Carolina House District 68

**Moderator:** Deb Watts Partner, Broadband Catalysts

Grant Goings City Manager, City of Wilson

Dr. John Graham Senior Investigator, North Carolina Institute for Public Health; NC Telehealth Network

Matt Dunne Founder and Executive Director, Center on Rural Innovation

Red Grasso SPOC, FirstNet NC

Terry Cox Executive Director, Gaston Innovation Group

3:30 PM

## CLOSING REMARKS

John Coggin Director of Advocacy, NC Rural Center  
NC Broadband Matters

Christa Wagner Vinson and Deb Watts, NC Broadband Matters

3:45 - 4:30 PM

## OPTIONAL WORKSHOP: SHARING IT

*Free broadband mapping tools and conference-wide planning discussion.*

Brian Rathbone Partner, Broadband Catalysts

Jeff Sural Director, North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office

We invite you to share your story with us at [ncheartsgigabit.com](http://ncheartsgigabit.com) and [@ncheartsgb](https://twitter.com/ncheartsgb).

Don't let your community be left behind! Talk to your local and state elected officials and tell them your story about why gaining access to modern broadband infrastructure is important to you, your small business, your healthcare, your education, your public safety and your community's future.

[www.ncleg.net/representation/whorepresentsme.aspx](http://www.ncleg.net/representation/whorepresentsme.aspx)

**NC Broadband Matters  
Board of Directors**

Alan Fitzpatrick  
Catharine Rice  
Christa Wagner Vinson  
Dawn Melton  
Deborah Watts  
Eric Cramer  
Jane Smith Patterson  
Will Aycock (Advisor)

