

## PRESS RELEASE

5/28/14

### **Western Iowa Networks to Bring Gigabit Internet Speed to Four Iowa Communities**

Beginning July 15, 2014, Western Iowa Networks (WIN) will launch 1 Gbps (Gigabit per second) Internet service in the Iowa communities of Breda, Carroll, Lidderdale, and Westside.

Just how fast is 1 Gbps? It's the equivalent of 1,000 Mbps (Megabits per second), which is over 100 times faster than the U.S. than the U.S. high-speed Internet average. With a Gigabit connection, you could download an entire digital movie copy (14GB) in less than two minutes.

"Western Iowa Networks is the first communications company in the western part of Iowa to offer Gigabit services," notes Chuck Deisbeck, CEO of WIN. "Nationwide, there are currently only 14-15 Gigabit communities, so the fact that WIN is launching four in Iowa is groundbreaking and an accomplishment of which we're proud."

Dave Duncan, CEO of the Iowa Communications Alliance, says, "We are extremely happy to hear that Western Iowa Networks will provide Gigabit high-speed Internet service to the four western Iowa communities of Breda, Carroll, Lidderdale, and Westside. Western Iowa Networks joins a very small list of communications providers in the nation who will offer such advanced and high-tech services to their customers. What makes this announcement even more impressive than the announcements by Google or others is that Western Iowa Networks is offering Gigabit service to rural customers — even those who live outside of the city limits of Breda, Lidderdale, and Westside."

Duncan explains, "Whereas Google only serves those in densely populated urban areas who have 'pre-subscribed' and laid down hefty deposits, Western Iowa Networks is taking the lead by offering Gigabit service to anyone who wants it within those four service areas. This is also a great example of how locally-owned and operated communications providers are addressing the growing digital divide that separates many rural customers from their urban counterparts."

Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, joins the praise for this Western Iowa Networks project. She says, "NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association is thrilled to see the enthusiasm and innovation by one of our member companies in providing cutting-edge telecommunications services to rural Iowa. Our members, like Western Iowa Networks, continue to show their dedication to not only providing broadband but also top-of-the-line services to their customers regardless of where they live and work. This exciting announcement is an example of the important role broadband providers can play in the enhancement of their customers' lives and the economy in the communities they serve."

The groundwork for these Gigabit communities was the 100 percent fiber-optic network built by Western Iowa Networks in the communities of Breda, Lidderdale, and Westside, and the City of Carroll. Deisbeck says, "Our fiber-optic network allows our customers to enjoy all of the same benefits that larger providers in other communities offer their customers. The next phase of our business plan is to offer a range of Internet speeds and pricing to make it affordable for our current and future customers to have access to a state-of-the-art connection to the outside world."

Adds Deisbeck, "We are launching our Gigabit services so businesses can grow, schools can develop one-on-one initiatives, telemedicine can be offered in rural communities, and communities can enhance their economic development. With these faster Internet speeds, people in our rural communities will be able to live the lifestyle they want to enjoy without having to sacrifice access to services that have previously only been offered in urban areas."

**About Western Iowa Networks**

Breda Telephone Corp. ~ d.b.a. Western Iowa Networks (WIN) ~ is a leading communications company based in Breda, IA. It is one of western Iowa's largest independent telephone companies, and one of the areas most diverse service providers.

**Press Inquiries:**

Megan Badding

Director of Marketing & Business Development

888.508.2946

[mbadding@westianet.com](mailto:mbadding@westianet.com)