

NineStar Connect Recognized as Community Innovator by National Rural Broadband Association

Award given today at Boston Conference is the second time in the last month NTCA has recognized NineStar Connect for Innovation in its field

**For Immediate Release
September 22, 2015**

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Boston, Mass. – Greenfield-based utility cooperative NineStar Connect has been named a Smart Rural Community Showcase Award winner by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association.

This week’s awards to 12 NTCA members, including NineStar Connect, at the Association’s annual Fall Conference in Boston recognizes companies that embody Smart Rural Community principles to promote rural broadband networks and their broadband-enabled applications that communities can leverage to foster innovative economic development, commerce, education, health care, government services, public safety, security, and more efficient energy distribution and use.



In addition to NTCA’s Smart Rural Community initiative to highlight efforts that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business, last month the NTCA also recognized NineStar Connect as an inaugural member of a group of nine telecom providers named Certified Gig-Capable Providers.

“For NineStar Connect to receive this type of recognition twice in a month from NTCA shows NineStar Connect’s commitment to our customers and communities to bring truly state of the art services to Central Indiana. That combined with the partnership role we play with the cities and counties we serve make the region stronger in competing for jobs and economic opportunities,” NineStar Connect’s President and CEO Michael R. Burrow said after receiving the award at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

In addition to the recognition from NTCA, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler lauded NineStar Connect and its cohorts offering Gigabit speeds to its customers around the country, a download and upload rate that isn’t readily available from the nation’s largest Internet providers in urban areas and even rarer in rural zones.

“I’m particularly pleased to see that NTCA has created a program to highlight independent providers delivering gigabit broadband speeds, and is recognizing many of these companies at this week’s conference, companies like NineStar Connect in Greenfield, Indiana, Polar Communications in Park River, North Dakota, and Premier Communications in Sioux Center, Iowa to name a few. We all know, however, that there are plenty of areas where local demand by itself will not support the deployment of robust, modern, world-class communications networks,” Chairman Wheeler stated during his speech to the conference.

About NineStar Connect: NineStar Connect is a communications and energy cooperative offering the latest technological solutions to business and residential clients in Central Indiana. Offering smart meter technologies to its energy customers, broadband speeds up to 100Gig, and numerous other products and services, NineStar Connect is owned by its members and headquartered in Greenfield, IN. More information is available at www.NineStarConnect.com. NineStar Connect has recently been recognized by the NTCA (*National Telecommunications Association*) as a Certified Gig-Capable provider.

For more information about the NTCA Smart Rural Communities Initiative, visit:
<http://www.ntca.org/smart>.