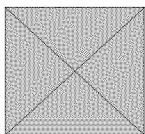


From: Prosper, Terrie D.
Sent: 8/13/2012 12:08:33 PM
To: Prosper, Terrie D. (terrie.prosper@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: California Broadband Council To Examine Innovations for Better Integrating
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Release

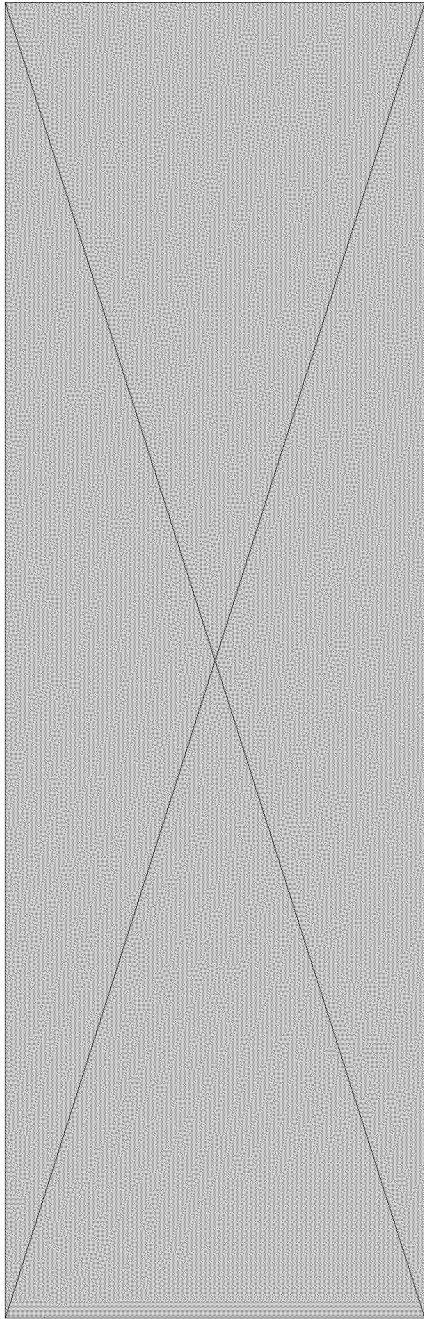


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Broadband Council To Examine Innovations for Better Integrating Broadband Technology in K-12 Education

August 13, 2012 – The California Broadband Council will examine the critical role of broadband technology in improving educational opportunities for the state’s more than 6 million K-12 students at its meeting this week in Sacramento:

When: August 14, 2012, 10 a.m.

Where: State Capitol, Room 2040, Sacramento

As children across the state prepare to start a new school year, Council members will hear from experts who are developing and implementing policy innovations on the use of broadband to ensure equal access to educational opportunities and improve the quality of education for California children.

The California Broadband Council was established by legislation in 2010 to marshal the state’s resources to further the policy of increasing broadband network deployment and eliminating the Digital Divide by expanding broadband accessibility, literacy, adoption, and usage.

With nearly one-third of California households lacking broadband connections, increasing access to affordable high-speed Internet is a central goal of the Council. More than half of the state’s public school students live in low income families, according to EdSource, a non-profit research group.

At the California Broadband Council meeting, Napa Superintendent of Schools Barbara Nemko will discuss how her district is using technology to help close the achievement gap for lower-performing students and increase college and career attainment. She will highlight successful programs that integrate broadband technologies in every stage of education – from digital kindergarten readiness to Napa’s New Technology High School, which serves as a national model. She will describe the need to increase broadband capacity at school and home and remove barriers that she contends hold some educators back from taking full advantage of digital learning, including adoption of online textbooks.

“Having sufficient broadband and a 1:1 ratio of students to computers will be a huge step towards closing the achievement gap. Students need to be able to learn any time, any place,

and at any pace,” Superintendent Nemko said.

Ted Lempert, President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy group based in Oakland, and a former chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Select Committee on Education Technology, will discuss recent findings in the 2012 Kids Count report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which gave California a state ranking of 43 in the area of education. Factors that determine the ranking include proficiency in math and reading and on-time graduation rates.

“Technology clearly has a role to play in improving instruction and learning in California. Knowing this, we must identify and remove the existing state-level policy and access barriers to implementing proven educational technologies on a much wider scale, for all children,” Lempert said.

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