



broadband association of north dakota

## BAND Together Newsletter

### Executive Director Report: BAND Proudly Supports North Dakota's Governor's Cup to Keep Talent in the State

The Governor's Cup, launched just last year, has quickly become one of North Dakota's **premier networking events**—bringing together leaders from across industries, business, and government. More than just an incredible place to connect, it's also a powerful fundraiser for ND Career Builders—a program that recruits and retains talent for North Dakota's high-demand careers.

BAND has been a silver sponsor each of the past two years and participated in the networking events. I have had the pleasure of attending both years and it isn't often you can attend a networking event that includes the leaders of multiple industries such as healthcare, energy production, technology, communications and North Dakota policymakers. Not only is this a great way for us to connect with other leaders, but the cause is something we can all get behind.

This unique workforce initiative offers a \$1-for-\$1 state match (up to \$17,000 per recipient) for scholarships or student loan repayment—helping businesses attract skilled workers and giving students the incentive to build their careers right here in North Dakota.

It's a win for businesses, employees, students, and our state's economy. ND Career Builders changes lives, strengthens communities, and delivers lasting impact. BAND looks forward to continuing our support of this worthy cause.

As always, please **reach out with any questions** regarding broadband in North Dakota.



### BAND Member Spotlight: Halstad Telephone Cooperative

#### HTC Supporting North Dakota's Economy Through Broadband

Halstad Telephone Cooperative (HTC), based in Halstad, MN, serves eastern North Dakota right between Fargo and Grand Forks along Interstate 29, providing state-of-the-art fiber internet to more than 1,500 rural residents, farms, and businesses in the region.



Through a combination of USDA ReConnect, RDOF, ND ARPA grants, and HTC's own investment, rural towns, schools, and farms now have access to a high-speed fiber network, transforming areas that had long been left behind by larger telecom carriers. The goal: to keep these rural communities viable and contributing to North Dakota's economy.

#### Here's How HTC's Broadband Strengthens the Region:

- **Supports Key Employers:** American Crystal Sugar Company, Hillsboro, ND, an HTC customer—employs many local residents served by HTC.

- **Drives Precision Agriculture:** Fiber-to-the-farm enables advanced farming technologies, helping rural operations remain competitive.
- **Promotes Local Sports & Community:** HTC owns [Your Live Event](#) with R&J Broadcasting, offering free streaming of sporting events from nine local schools, generating support for rural athletic programs.
- **Enables Remote Work:** Reliable fiber connections allow residents to telecommute to Fargo or Grand Forks, keeping businesses running, even during harsh North Dakota winters.
- **Expands Access to Education & Healthcare:** Fiber internet makes online learning and telemedicine practical for rural households.

HTC remains committed to expanding and maintaining its fiber network. Federal support programs like the Universal Service Fund (USF) play a vital role in keeping rural North Dakota vibrant, connected, and economically strong.

### BAND Around the State

BAND took part of Co-Op Day at the North Dakota State Fair. Carissa cooked for and served hundreds of hungry fairgoers in Minot, which is the heart of SRT territory.

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community, highlight the vital role of broadband in rural North Dakota, and celebrate the spirit of cooperation that drives our industry forward.

Stay tuned for more BAND adventures across the state!



### Upcoming Events

**September 4**

PAC-T Golf Event (Patinted Woods Golf Course)

**December 1-3**

BAND Annual Meeting (Bismarck, ND)



### Get in Touch & Stay Connected!

**Carissa Swenson,  
Executive Director**

I am happy to provide information or speak at an event. If you aren't already subscribed to this newsletter, [please join our mailing list](#).



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