Digital Workforce Development Center





Open Access Regional Network



ForestTech Center



# REGION 12 DIGITAL ECONOMIC INNOVATION CORRIDOR & RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Build Back Better EDA Presentation

October 17, 2021

# About: WRC is an independent nonprofit dedicated to driving technosocial solutions to create jobs and improve communities.

WRC's chamber for antenna and wireless-device testing COLBY KATZ FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

# WRC Team

United by our experience and passion to make a difference

**Gerard Hayes, Ph.D.** President and Founder

Matthew Bauer Vice President Connected Communities, Executive Director

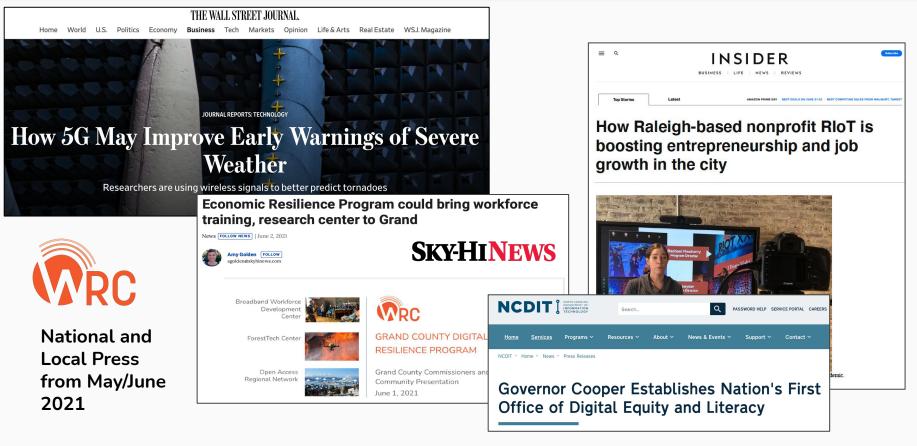
**Jeremy Kennell** Program Director, Connected Communities Digital Hubs

**Tom Snyder** Vice President R!OT, Executive Director



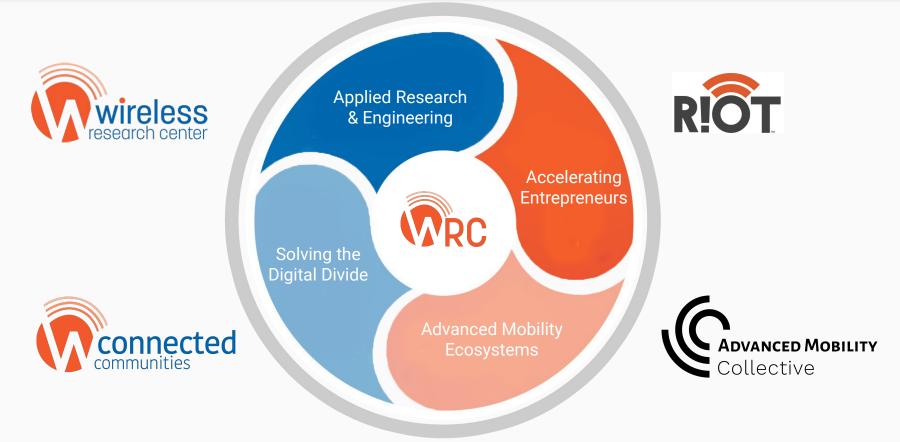
# WRC: Experience. Track Record. Results





### WRC Strategic Initiatives – One 501(c)3





# Region 12 Digital Economic Resilience Program



Digital Digital workforce training programs & certifications. Workforce New digital career paths or update current skills Incubating and accelerating entrepreneurs Development Center Trade Center for continued learning, healthcare + Digital **Business Process Outsourcing ForestTech** Workforce Center Development Center **Open Access** Advocate, help coordinate and build enhanced and resilient broadband in Region 12 **Broadband** Backbone for both the Digital Workforce Development • Center and the ForestTech Centers with benefits for all residents and businesses in the region Wildfire mitigation, suppression, and resiliency • **Advanced** Create trusted regional/national ecosystem with key stakeholders (DOI, FEMA, CoE, State/Local, etc.) **Open Access** Mobility **Broadband Collective** Integrate, prove and deploy "Smart Forest" **ForestTech** Technologies (communications, sensors, autonomous Center vehicles, robotics, wearables, data analytics, etc.) Transform the way we manage our forests

# Strong Regional Support



(Partial List)

EAST F-RUNCLU GRAND





















**COLORADO** Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting

Department of Public Safety













### WRC Digital Workforce Development Center







### **Current Perfect Storm of Economic Opportunity**



# Current trends all point to an unprecedented moment to improve livelihoods, the economy and society

**Economic / Jobs Development**: In 2019, nearly 7M jobs went unfilled largely due to a growing skills gap, combined with millions of low skill workers who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 creates the perfect storm and opportunity. [Source: CNBC]

**Remote Work**: Over 1/3rd NOW working remote - COVID-19 thrust business community into new paradigm, remote work opportunities have skyrocketed, expected to be permanent. [Source: Gallup]

**Education**: Millions of youth already in challenged situations low income / in poverty, have been thrust to learn from home where they do not have access to necessary resources.

**Broadband Connectivity**: Upwards of 150M Americans are unserved or underserved either due to physical access, affordability or both. [Source: NC@High Speed research, Microsoft, Various]

**TeleHealth**: Healthcare, insurance and health policy have been catapulted years forward due to COVID-19 while millions remain unable to access due to poor Internet connectivity, training and affordability.



# **WR**C

### Problem:

There is an entire swath of rural America, 60 million people strong, which has been overshot by the economic prosperity brought by the information technology era. ~84% of jobs in Region 12, directly or indirectly, touch the tourism industry leaving little resilience due to economic changes while lacking in high paying jobs.

#### Solution:

The data is clear. Extreme flexibility and hybrid work will define the post-pandemic workplace - - retooling Region 12's workforce as remote workers, IT professionals, while leveraging our workforce to take advantage of the myriad of current opportunities is a MUST to compete in today's world.

#### Benefit:

Revitalizing Region 12, helping people see beyond their current situation toward a better way of life, restoring hope and dignity to our communities, while providing regional and national/ international companies and organizations desperate for digitally skilled employees a great source in Region 12.







Developing a new and robust digital workforce in Region 12 while providing ongoing support for graduates as they continue to create primary jobs in Region 12.







**Digital Workforce Training Programs**: A Digital Workforce Training Center <u>will provide digital training and certifications to Region 12 residents</u> while attracting new digital workers. <u>Including training individuals in</u> <u>work-ready skills and up-training local businesses</u> to become more efficient and effective in the digital marketplace. The Center will offer training in multiple regions of Grand County to allow access for learners.

**Digital Workforce Trade Organization:** A Digital Workforce Trade Organization <u>provides ongoing training, upskilling, and community amongst</u> <u>Digital Workers while allowing access to attainable health care for</u> <u>individuals and their families.</u>

**Digital BPO:** A Business Processing and Outsourcing organization that connects Graduates of the Workforce Training Center to remote digital jobs.

### Training, Upscaling, Professional Development, and Job Sourcing

# High Paying Digital Workforce Career Examples



### **Development & Testing**

- C#, VB.NET
- Java
- LAMP Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP
- Cobol & Other Legacy Languages
- Web Forms Application
- MVC Web Application
- SharePoint Webparts
- Automated Testing
- User Experience Certification

### **Data Services**

- Exploratory Data Mining
- ETL Services/Data Aggregation
- Business Intelligence/Data Warehousing
- Oracle PL/SQL
- MS SQL Server/Reporting Services
- Information Management/Data Visualization
- Unix/Shell Scripting
- Business Objects Support

### **Business Process Outsourcing**

- Outbound Call Center
- IT/Call Center Support
- Policy & Process definition
- Metrics development
- Contract/Lease Abstraction
- I-9 Verification
- Vendor Maintenance
- Access & Entitlements

### **Maintenance & Support**

- End User Support Services (Service Desk)
- Infrastructure Support
- NOCC Support
- Production Support/Emergency Fixes
- Application Continuity/Monitoring
- Server Administration/Backup/Patches
- Operational Security Auditing

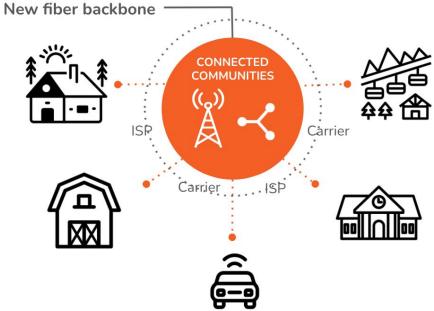
### Modern, Digital Certifications, Career Paths & Job Pairing



### **Connected Communities Network**







### A new high-performance, open access, broadband network that moves Region 12 to digital leadership

Region 12 in CO has fallen behind when it comes to digital access. But if we all work together to build community broadband with open access, we can achieve high-performance, more affordable Internet for all of us.

connected



# The Open-Access Model Changes Everything Think: Autobahn for the Internet

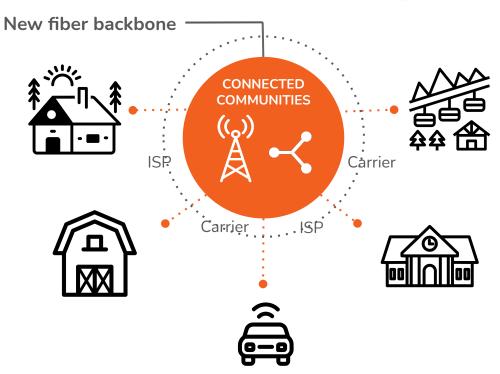
Similar to a unified road system, an open access network shares transport in the same way. Open-access networks unbundle transport of the services and function as a local transport provider, or LTP with 4 primary components:

- **1. Passive network infrastructure + network electronics** delivers services from service providers to customers.
- 2. The LTP manages the network infrastructure and ensures that each service provider has adequate bandwidth and network quality of service (QoS)
- 3. Service providers contract to use the network infrastructure
- 4. End-users buy services of their choice from one or more service providers

### **Holistic Solution**

# Moving Region 12 to Digital Leadership

As a middle-mile carrier, we're creating a vibrant and innovative market and maximizing opportunities for Region 12's connected communities to learn, work and play.





### ForestTech Center





## The Advanced Mobility Collective





About The Advanced Mobility Collective (AMC): AMC is a global collective bringing together leading companies, nonprofits and government agencies to create the world's first systems-level deployments of advanced / autonomous mobility and serving as a catalyst for innovation and economic development.

**Our Mission:** To drive the design and development of economically sustainable operations by interconnecting the essential components of advanced mobility to deliver impactful outcomes.

#### Advanced Mobility Collective Focus Areas

### Disaster Management & Resiliency

- Wildfire prevention, suppression and management to replanting forests
- Flood mitigation and recovery

#### Healthcare

- Intermodal transfer of goods within and between hospital campuses
- Movement of specialists to underserved areas

# AMC's World-Leading Partners and Advisors





Advisors



#### **Ben Miller**

Strong advocate for the use of technology in firefighting - Director of the CO Center of Excellence for Advanced Aerial Firefighting.



\*Partial List

### **Colleen Reiche, PhD** Dr. Reiche is a Lead Scientist at QS-2

with over 12 years of experience (FAA, NASA in weather data collection and analytics.



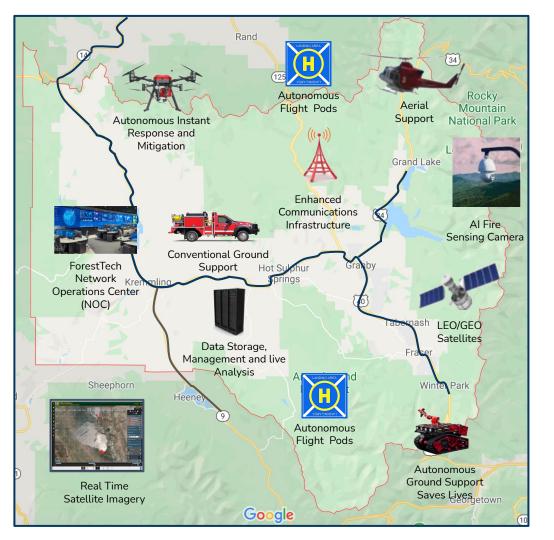
#### Lee dePalo

VP of Strategic Partnerships for Disaster Tech, providing emergency managers with tools to mitigate risk. Formerly Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII.

#### Kyle Snyder

Robotics Program Manager for Cherokee Nation Strategic Programs supporting Dept. of Homeland Security with robotics testing and integration. Over 20 yrs. in robotics development.

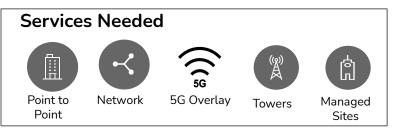




### ForestTech Components



- Autonomous Instant Response and Mitigation
- Autonomous Flight Pods
- Aerial Support
- Al Fire Sensing Camera
- Enhanced Communications Infrastructure
- Conventional Ground Support
- Autonomous Ground Support
- ForestTech Network Operations Center (NOC)
- LEO/GEO Satellites
- Real Time Satellite Imagery



= New Fiber Backbone, MPEI

# ForestTech – Building, Interconnecting and Managing Systems





# ForestTech Center - Stopping Wildfires, Economic Benefits



- Robust workforce and economic development
- Supporting a more year-round economy
- Bring high paying jobs and careers
- Spurs broadband buildout and access
- Stopping wildfires in their tracks!

- Greatly reduce the risk of wildfires in Region 12 while serving as a massive economic boon and stimulus for the county
- Establishing Colorado as the leader changing how the world manages fires, natural disasters and forests, forever.
- Capture millions of dollars in federal and corporate funding for Region 12
- Establish an economically sustainable tech-ecosystem (companies / funding / talent) that transforms the way we manage forests
- Management of wildfire outcomes and associated watershed impacts
- Design and deployment of infrastructure that supports Smart Forests

# Region 12 Digital Economic Resilience Program



Digital Digital workforce training programs & certifications. Workforce New digital career paths or update current skills Incubating and accelerating entrepreneurs Development Center Trade Center for continued learning, healthcare + Digital **Business Process Outsourcing ForestTech** Workforce Center Development Center **Open Access** Advocate, help coordinate and build enhanced and resilient broadband in Region 12 **Broadband** Backbone for both the Digital Workforce Development • Center and the ForestTech Centers with benefits for all residents and businesses in the region Wildfire mitigation, suppression, and resiliency • **Advanced** Create trusted regional/national ecosystem with key stakeholders (DOI, FEMA, CoE, State/Local, etc.) **Open Access** Mobility **Broadband Collective** Integrate, prove and deploy "Smart Forest" **ForestTech** Technologies (communications, sensors, autonomous Center vehicles, robotics, wearables, data analytics, etc.) Transform the way we manage our forests

Digital Workforce Development Center





Open Access Regional Network



ForestTech Center



# REGION 12 DIGITAL ECONOMIC INNOVATION CORRIDOR & RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Build Back Better EDA Presentation

October 17, 2021