



Brian Mefford is chairman and chief executive officer of Connected Nation, a nationwide non-profit that maps the availability of broadband services and improves broadband deployment and adoption throughout the United States. He is recognized as a leading resource among corporations, policy makers and associations on accelerating technology availability to underserved areas of the country. Mefford was responsible for the successful design and execution of broadband expansion plans in Kentucky with ConnectKentucky for which Connected Nation is modeled. He received a B.S. in Economics from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky and an International M.B.A. from Thunderbird, The American Graduate School of International Management, in Arizona. To learn more about Connected Nation visit www.connectednation.com



Paul Kuhlman is the 2009 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. He has taught high school science and math at Avon High School in Avon, S.D. for 17 years. Kuhlman holds a B.S. in Biology Education from North Dakota State University and Master Degrees in Secondary Administration and Natural Science from the University of South Dakota. He also has worked as a consultant for the South Dakota University of South Dakota's School of Education.



Lori Neurohr is the 2009 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year. Neurohr has taught second grade at Kohler Elementary School in Kohler, Wis. for nine years and is responsible for multi-aged looped classes consisting of second and third grade students. She holds a Bachelors Degree from Lakeland College in Sheboygan and a Masters Degree with an emphasis in reading and language arts from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee.



Ric Crane is executive vice president and chief marketing officer for Windstream. Crane is responsible for the company's marketing and advertising efforts, pricing, product development, marketing research and strategic business development. He has served in this position since January 2006.



Susan Bradley is senior vice president of human resources for Windstream. Bradley is responsible for the company's employee and labor relations, compensation, benefits and staffing. She was appointed to the position in December 2005, and previously served as vice president of human resources for Alltel. Prior to joining Alltel, Bradley spent 12 years with Southwestern Bell.



David Avery is director of corporate communications for Windstream. He has more than 20 years experience in public relations and broadcasting. He was appointed to his current position at Windstream in 2006, and previously served as staff manager of corporate communications at Alltel Corp. Prior to joining Alltel in 1998, he served as news operations director at KATV, the ABC TV affiliate in Little Rock, Ark.

