



# Regional Fiber Connect

## Oklahoma City, OK

7:15 AM

Registration Open, sponsored by Wesco



7:15AM – 8:00AM

*Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors sponsored by Benton Technical Services*



8:00AM – 8:15AM

**Welcome & Introduction** – Gary Bolton, President & CEO, Fiber Broadband Association

8:15AM – 8:20 AM

**Platinum Sponsor Welcome & Introductions** – Michael Kletchko, Regional Vice President, Adtran



8:20AM – 8:50AM

**Workforce Development: Building Tomorrow's Fiber Teams Today**

As we head into the largest fiber investment cycle in history, the technical workforce required to ensure homes can be connected needs to be developed. FBA, its members, and the industry in general, have created programs to address this challenge but more needs to be done. This panel will discuss current plans and how they can be expanded, what's missing, and the role of local stakeholders in the process.

Moderator: Mark Boxer, Technical Manager, OFS, FBA Board Member

Panelists:

- Charles Harrison, Director, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology's Advanced Training Center
- Dr. Mark Weiser, Professor, Oklahoma State University
- Brandon Dinsmore, NTIA Program Coordinator, Workforce & Economic Development, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology's Advanced Training Center

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Wi-Fi Sponsored by: The Kelley Drye logo features the words "Kelley" and "Drye" in a blue, sans-serif font, with "Drye" stacked below "Kelley".

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**8:50AM – 9:30AM**      **Fireside Chat: Oklahoma’s Road to Better Broadband**  
Mike Fina, Chair of the Broadband Governing Board & Dr. Brian Whitacre, Chair of the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Council  
Moderated by Sachin Gupta, Director of Government Business & Economic Development, Centranet

**9:30 – 9:32 AM**      **Breakfast Sponsor Remarks – Jeremy Kintz, Managing Partner, Benton Technical Services**

*9:32AM – 10:00AM*      *Networking Break with Exhibitors sponsored by Mears Group*



**10:00AM – 10:02AM**      **Networking Break Sponsor Remarks – Heather Burnett Gold, Mears Group**

**10:02AM – 10:45AM**      **The Community Connection: How Fiber Impacts Economics and Opportunity**  
As the industry moves to close the Digital Equity Gap, what does this mean for local stakeholders in terms of economic impact and opportunity? What role does fiber play in improving GDP, creating job opportunities, and new business development. What impact can it have on education, community services and home prices, and does fiber present the best catalyst for growth as local operators decide what technology to leverage with BEAD funding? At the heart of it is, does an option other than fiber equate to a decision to potentially leave a community behind?

Moderator: Marissa Mitrovich, Vice President of Public Policy, FBA

Panelists:

- Glen Howie, State Broadband Director, Arkansas
- Kirk Martin, State Broadband Director Oklahoma
- Thomas Tyler, Deputy Director, ConnectLA


**10:45AM – 11:20AM**      **Deployment Challenges and Opportunities: Tribal Considerations**  
Gains are being made to improve broadband access for tribal entities and with over 80% of all lands in Oklahoma part of Tribal nations, the state is at the center of these programs. Over \$3B has been earmarked through Federal funding programs of which \$2B is already allocated and 10 Oklahoma tribes have won awards. Another \$1B will be made available by NTIA in the coming months. Now that funding is available, what are the key factors that need to be considered as operators look to best serve Tribal communities? This panel brings together broadband experts from several Oklahoma Tribal nations to share their insights into the best path forward.

Moderator: Jimmy Todd, CEO/General Manager, Nex-Tech, Vice Chair, FBA Board

Panelists:

- Robert Griffin, Tribal Broadband Coordinator, Choctaw Nation
- Kay Rhoads, Self Governance Director, Kickapoo Tribe
- Micah White, Chief Executive Officer, Tribal Utility Authority, Muscogee (Creek) Nation


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- 11:20AM – 11:40AM**    **The Profound Impact of Fiber On Mid America - Just the Facts**  
Mike Render, RVA
- 11:40AM – 12:10PM**    **Middle Mile and Internet Exchange Architectures: Feeding the Edge of Tomorrow**  
As fiber broadband expands to more homes across the country, the importance of creating a middle mile architecture capable of supporting the capacity, services and infrastructure requirement is critical. Not only will the Middle Mile be fundamental to supporting a fully connected economy but is required to support new low latency applications, 5G and other wireless services that provide on-ramp access to the broadband network. This panel will discuss the key factors that need to be considered as the Middle Mile evolves to serve the Edge of Tomorrow.  
Moderator: Kimberly McKinley, CMO, Utopia Fiber, FBA Board  
Panelists:
- Doug Maglothin, Diamond State Networks
  - Joe Baeumel, Vice President, Cloud Partners at KGPCo
  - Lance McGee, Head of Product, Vetro
- 12:10PM – 12:12PM**    **Lunch Sponsor Remarks** - Scott Jackson, National Market Manager, Graybar, FBA Board
- 12:12PM – 12:45PM*    *Networking Lunch-Sponsored by Graybar/Ciena*
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- 12:45PM – 1:15PM*    *Networking Dessert with Exhibitors*
- 1:15PM – 2:00PM**    **Fireside Chat: Tribal Connections**  
Angela Gasper, Second Chief/Acting Principal Chief, Sac and Fox Nation, moderated by Hunter Robinson, CEO, CREC
- 2:00PM – 2:45PM**    **Oklahoma Rural Broadband Imperatives – Creating Collations that Change the Game**  
As Federal broadband funding begins to flow, how can our industry forge coalitions and partnerships that drive growth, foster innovation, and provide a more efficient and effective path to closing the Digital Divide for all Americans. Electric co-ops, telephone co-ops and rural telcos are a rapidly growing cohort of broadband providers and will play a key role in serving the unserved. Associations such as FBA, NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association can go a long way in developing trust between disparate rural operators and forging alliances. This panel brings together the architects of the partnership in Indiana between Hoosier Net and Accord, as well as officials from NTCA and NRECA, a blueprint that could serve our industry moving forward.  
Moderator: Gary Bolton, president and CEO, FBA  
Panelists:
- Brian Ford, Vice President, Federal Regulatory, NTCA

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- James Tanneberger, Chairman, Accord, and CEO SCI REMC
- August Zehner, Managing Partner, MyTRA Consulting (Hoosier Net, NM Fiber Network, WPA Fiber Network)
- Katie Culleton, Legislative Affairs Director for Broadband and Telecommunications, NRECA

2:45PM – 2:47 PM Reception Sponsor Remarks – Kevin Czaicki, Vice President of Broadband Solutions, Millennium

2:50PM – 3:15PM *Networking Break with Exhibitors sponsored by Mears Group*



3:15PM – 3:35PM **FBA Programs and Plans with Joseph “JJ” Jones, President OnTrac and FBA Chairman and Richard Williams, Fiber Connect Program Chair**

3:35PM – 4:15PM **Industry Trends & Technology Best Practices Tribal Broadband Initiatives**  
 As operators and tribal broadband leaders look to leverage BEAD funding to upgrade and expand network infrastructure to support tribal broadband programs, what type of support is needed from vendors, system integrators and other suppliers to help ensure these programs are successful. These networks will require a higher level of partnership and trust to ensure these networks deliver the economic benefits possible. This panel brings together experts together to discuss best practices, management opportunities and challenges and steps each are taking to address these network builds.

Moderator: Scott Jackson, National Market Manager, Graybar, FBA Board Member

Panelists:

- Bobby Gonzalez, CEO, Caddo Nation
- Melissa Simpler, Director, Enterprise Business Development, Fixed Networks, Nokia
- Greg Luhman, Business Development Manager, Adtran

4:15PM – 4:30PM Closing Remarks

4:35PM – 5:45PM *Networking Reception sponsored by Millennium*



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