NITC and Community Council History

Mid-1990s—Chris Hoy works with Nebraska communities to establish community information technology committees to identify local technology-related needs and to develop plans to address those needs. The committees consisted of what he called "four food groups": business and agriculture; education; health care; and local government and libraries. Plans tended to focus on creating awareness, providing training, and stimulating the demand for Internet service.

1998—NITC is formed, focusing on three sectors—education, government, and communities.

1998—Community Council meets for the first time. Chris Hoy is the first Community IT Manager. It consists of three of Hoy's food groups: business and agriculture; health care; and local government and libraries.

1998—Telehealth Subcommittee is established.

1998—First Community Technology Fund grants awarded.

1999—NITC begins the process of developing the first Statewide Technology Plan. The NITC and the Councils identify needs, develop mission statements, and goals. Anne Byers replaces Chris Hoy as Community IT Manager.

1999—Community Technology Fund grants awarded.

2000—First Statewide Technology Plan is published.

2000—Community Technology Fund Grants awarded.

2001—Telehealth Needs Assessment completed by UNMC Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research.

2001—Community Technology Fund grants awarded.

2002—Technologies Across Nebraska is formed. The initiative is led by the NITC Community Council and the University of Nebraska Extension.

2002—Technologies Across Nebraska hosts Building Information Age Conference in Aurora, Nebraska.

2002—Community Technology Fund grants awarded. This is the last year the program is fully funded.

2002—Technologies Across Nebraska's IT Planning and Mini Grant program begins working with communities to conduct needs assessments and to develop technology plans.

2002-- Efforts to obtain support for telehealth from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund begin.

2003—IT Planning and Mini Grant program is funded as a special project.

2003—A survey of community technology committee reveals that they prefer to receive training and information via a newsletter. Technologies Across Nebraska begins publishing the newsletter, *TANgents*.

2004 –NITC includes strategic initiatives in the Statewide Technology Plan to emphasize initiatives of strategic importance to the state. Telehealth and IT Planning and Development are included as strategic initiatives.

2004—Public Service Commission approves plan for support of telehealth from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

2004—IT Planning and Mini Grant program is funded as a special project

2005—TIGER Mini Grants Awarded.

2006—Nearly all hospitals and public health departments are connected by the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network.

2006—Podcasting Across Nebraska kicks off by providing podcasting training to service providers and by selecting four communities to participate in the program. The program is funded as a special project.

2007—Podcasting Across Nebraska provides training and equipment to four communities. Approximately 20 podcasts have been produced through the program.

2007—NITC approves the creation of an eHealth Council and expands the Telehealth strategic initiative to eHealth.

2007—Community Council reorganizes, replacing departed telehealth representatives with workforce development representatives.