

# 10 DECADE OF DIGITAL INCLUSION

Connecting California:  
From Community Perspectives to Funded Projects



## Part 1: *Perspectives from the Community*



Connie Stewart,  
Cal Poly Humboldt



Matthew Rantanen, Southern California  
Tribal Chairmen's Association



Kevin G. Harbour, Sr.,  
BizFed Institute



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*Executive Director of Initiatives, Cal Poly Humboldt*





## Matthew Rantanen

*Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association*





**Kevin G. Harbour, Sr.**  
*President, BizFed Institute*



# **Biz Fed**Institute

**Defining the Voice of Business**

**Closing The Digital Divide =>  
Accelerating the Process**

**Kevin Harbour, President – BizFed Institute & Chair – Executive  
Committee, Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Broadband  
Collaborative**

# Closing The Digital Divide => Accelerating the Process

- ▶ Coverage Mapping
- ▶ Middle Mile vs. Last Mile => Who's responsible
- ▶ Collaboration is Key For Acceleration
- ▶ Infrastructure, ACP, Adoption, Literacy, Devices
- ▶ Making Funding More Easily Accessible



## Part 2: *CA Public Policy and Funding*



Kim Lewis, CENIC  
and GoldenStateNet



Barbara Hayes, Rural County  
Representatives of California





**Kim Lewis**

*Vice President of Government Relations, CENIC*



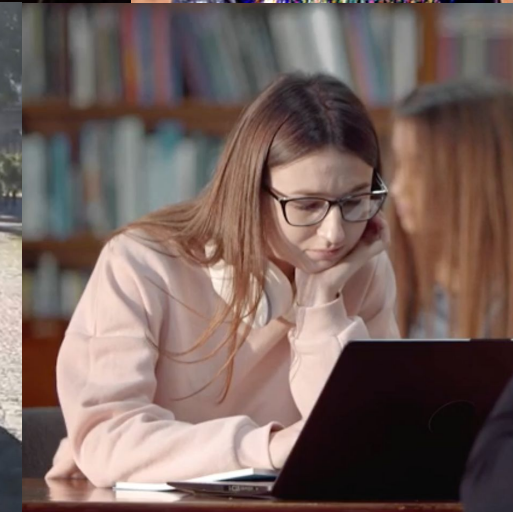
**CENIC is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation with the mission to advance education and research statewide by providing a world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration, and economic growth.**

### **Charter Associates:**

- California K-12 System
- California Community Colleges
- California State University System
- Stanford, Caltech, USC
- University of California System
- California Public Libraries
- Naval Postgraduate School

### **Other Members Include:**

- Scientific and Cultural Institutions
- Private Colleges and Universities
- Hospitals and Specialized Medical Institutions
- Biomedical, Science, Space, & Environmental Research Organizations
- Tribal Nations



## The California Research and Education Network (CalREN) 27 years of connecting California

- **8,000+** miles of optical fiber
- **Members in all 58 counties** connect via fiber-optic cable or leased circuits from telecom carriers
- **Over 12,000 sites** connect to CENIC
- Operated by a **501(c)(3) organization** chartered and governed by its members
- Collaborates with over **800 private sector partners** and contributes **> \$100,000,000** to the CA economy

# 20,000,000+ Californians use CENIC



# CENIC Benefits for California Institutions:

## More than just a network.

CENIC's California Research and Education Network (CalREN) is a multi-tiered, high-performance network serving the majority of research and education (R&E) institutions in the state.

**CalREN broadband offers CENIC member institutions supremely reliable, efficient, and cost-effective access as well as these benefits:**

- Access to a state-of-the-art network
- 24/7/365 Network Operation Center
- Lower costs on circuits and equipment
- Unlimited broadband use
- Network design expertise
- Circuit procurement, activation, and support
- Fiber procurement, lighting, and support
- Federal and state subsidy assistance
- Cloud connectivity and content services
- All Internet services, including settlement-free peering & exchange
- Security services
- Scaling services to the need
- Entry into an active membership organization
- A global community of hundreds of thousands of R&E institutions

# Innovation on Display



**K-12 Student Testing** - end-to-end support and monitoring from CENIC staff resulting in smooth testing experiences for students and teachers. California set a record when 570,745 students simultaneously took the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test.

**COVID Vaccine Research** - CENIC supports researchers at our R1 institutions in California and throughout the world to be able to access and share big datasets for the development of the initial COVID-19 vaccines and for ongoing research on variants and new vaccines.



**Wildfire Prevention** - WIFIRE is an innovative application developed by UCSD for predicting the path and spread of wildfires. The tool collects and analyzes big datasets in real-time to create predictive analytic models and support first responders in the field.



**Bridging the Divide for Sovereign Nations** - supported Tribal Digital Village in obtaining broadband connectivity to enhance intra-tribal connectivity and connection to the global Internet for 20 tribal communities in Southern California.



# CENIC's Engagement in Statewide Broadband Equity Efforts

**Given the increased importance of broadband and shifts in how the network was being used, a heightened focus on public policy at all levels of government.**

- Meetings, technology and policy documents, state and federal Plans, roundtables, and op-eds
- Western States Pact Alliance
- Broadband Infrastructure Grants (BIG/BIIG) connecting 488 individual schools
- High-Speed Broadband for Libraries Project connecting 927 library sites
- Reaching out to new communities, including healthcare, cultural institutions, museums, and tribal nations

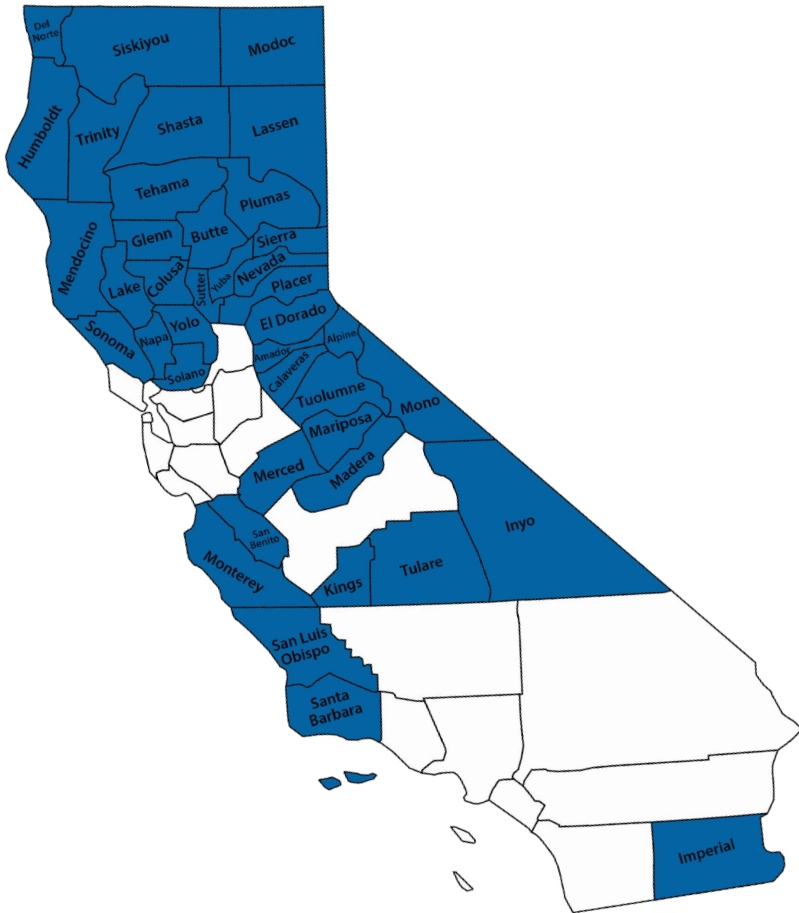


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*Chief Economic Development Officer, Rural County Representatives of California*



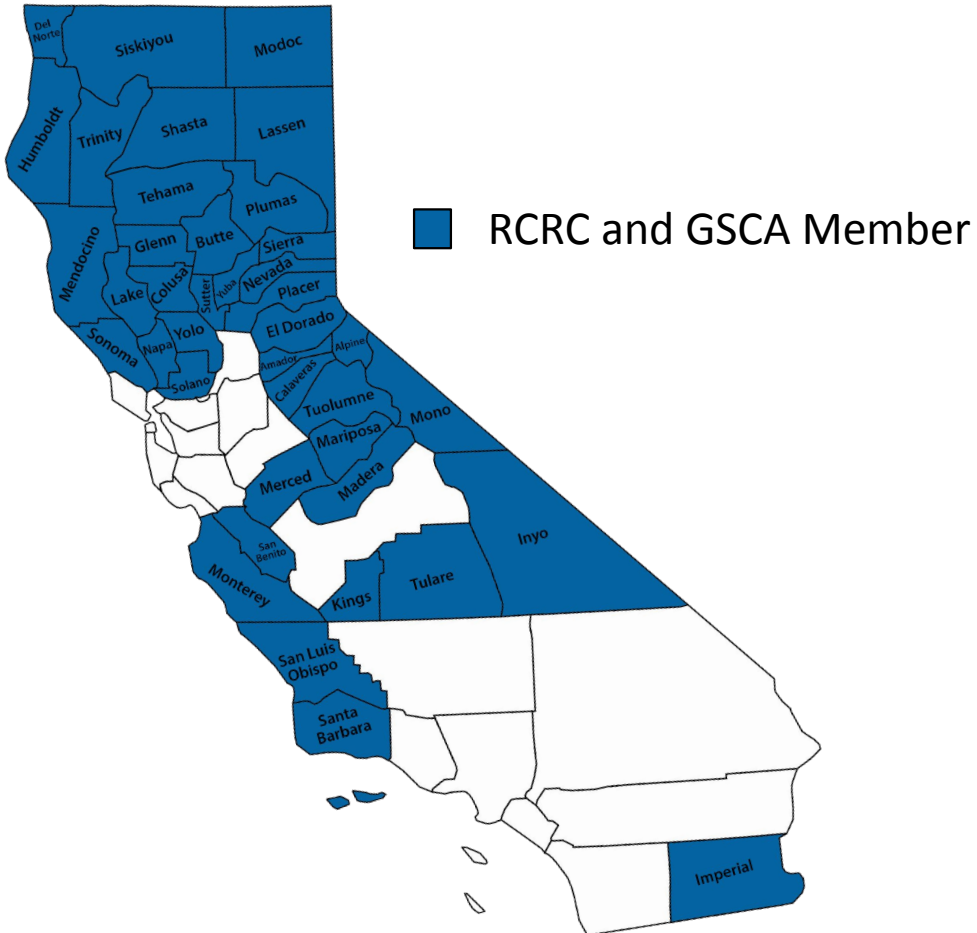
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- Represent 40 of California's 58 Counties
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- Home to 15 of California's 18 National Forests
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- Includes Main N/S and W/E Interstate Highway Systems in Western U.S.
- Advocacy, Business Development, and Economic Development Divisions
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# GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY



- Formed Joint Powers Authority
  - 40 Member Counties
- Program of Work Includes:
  - Broadband Strategic Planning
  - Capacity Building
  - Open-Access, Last Mile, Municipal Broadband Deployment
- Identified Financial and Operational Partners
- Key Priorities: Fiber First, Capacity, Broadband for All, Leverage Partnerships

# HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

## SB 156 – UNANIMOUS APPROVAL – SIGNED BY GOVERNOR JULY 2021

### HISTORIC \$6 BILLION INVESTMENT

- \$3.2 Billion - Middle Mile State-Owned Open Access Network
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### PROGRESS UPDATE – TWO YEARS LATER

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- Program Applications Invited in June 2023
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## Part 3:

# *The California Middle Mile Initiative as a Key Equity Strategy*



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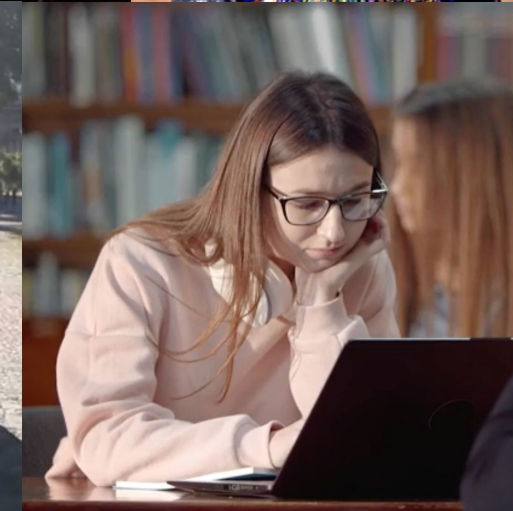
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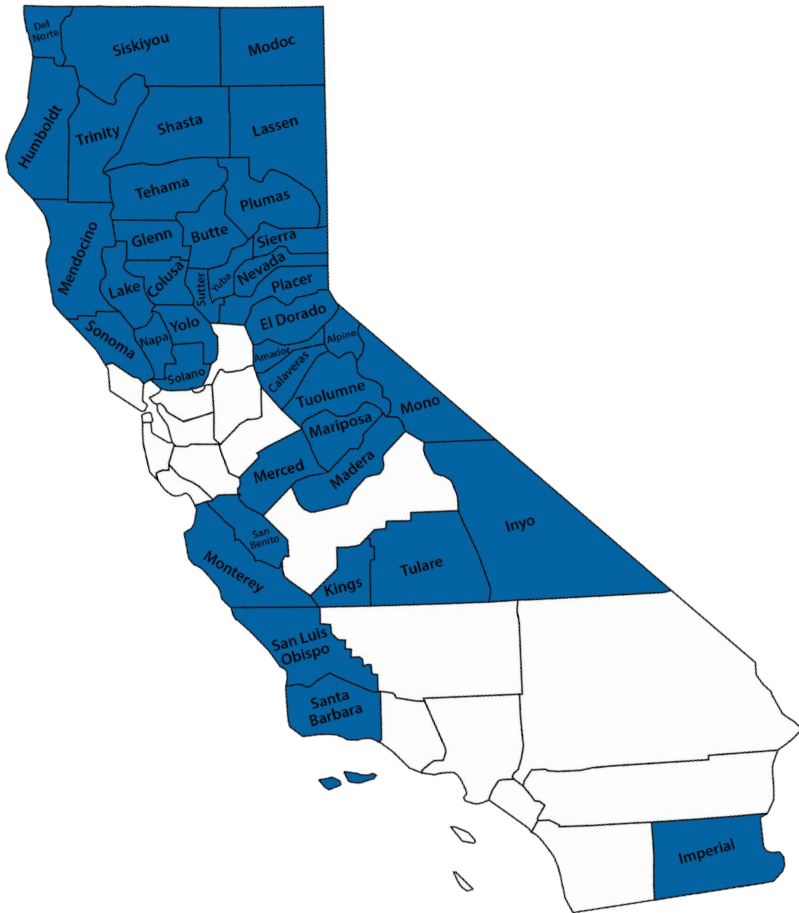


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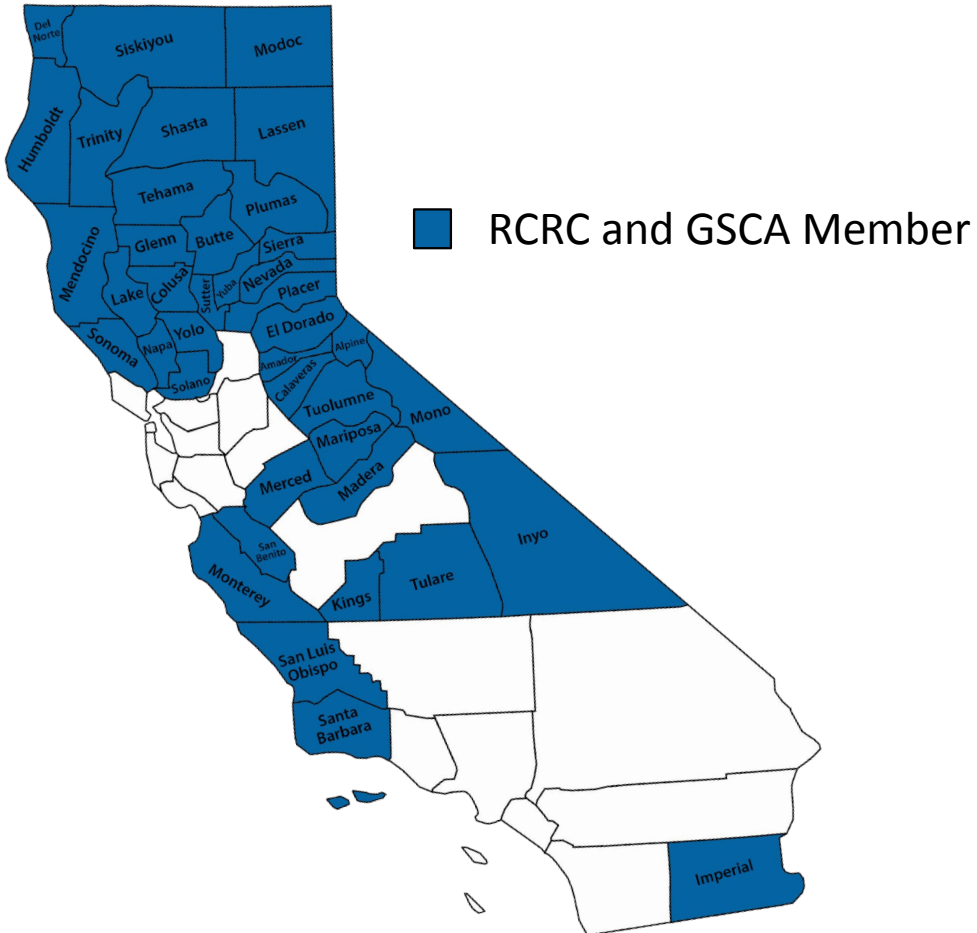


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## Discussion and Q&A



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