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State of the State

Kasich touts broadband, education

By Joe Vardon

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio — Gov. John Kasich said the state would dramatically increase the speed of its broadband network in his second State of the State address today, a speech that had at least one striking similarity to the address he gave last year.

Kasich, who likely became the first governor to deliver the State of the State outside the capital in Ohio, spoke for 1 hour and 23 minutes at Steubenville High School, which houses Wells Academy, the state's top-ranked public elementary. Kasich reviewed his administration's accomplishments and laid out a broad vision for the future that was thin on details, save for a pledge to raise broadband network speeds from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps — which he said would benefit hospitals and schools working to coordinate research, among others.

According to a news release from the Ohio Board of Regents, the state will invest approximately \$10 million through a recent agreement with Cisco and Juniper to “harness new innovative technology that will, in essence, ‘open the faucet’ of Ohio's current broadband infrastructure, over 1,800 miles of fiber.” The expansion leverages the fiber optic network operated by OARnet, a member of the Ohio Board of Regents Ohio Technology Consortium, according to the release.

The project will use \$8.1 million to connect Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Toledo to the network by June 2012. Akron, Athens and Youngstown are planned for connection by October 2012. The state also said public and private partners would invest \$2.3 million in a “state-of-the-art” innovation center to be located at the Ohio State University.

For more, click this link: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/02/07/kasich-addresses-energy-internet-in-address.html>

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