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OSIT ANNOUNCES E-RATE NETWORK EXPANSION

CARSON CITY, NV (September 25, 2018) — The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) announced that the expansion of the Elko County School District's broadband network has been completed. The expansion was jointly funded by the federal E-Rate program, state matching funds from OSIT, and funding from the Elko County School District. The District's network expansion was built by WANRack.

"OSIT is very pleased to support the Elko County School District with their E-Rate application through the Nevada Connect Kids Initiative. The expanded network will enable faster speeds, allowing students improved access to learning opportunities previously only available in larger, better connected districts," said Jojo Myers Campos, Nevada State Broadband Development Manager.

The Nevada Connect Kids was created to increase broadband internet access, adoption, and use across the state. As part of the Initiative, Governor Sandoval announced an investment of \$2 million for a state matching fund to ensure schools have the infrastructure they need to access high-speed broadband. OSIT administers and manages the fund in order to draw down additional federal broadband funding (known as E-rate) to assist school districts and libraries with their network upgrades. OSIT also provides school districts with customized consulting, network architecture, and application technical assistance in order to increase the amount of E-rate funding school districts and libraries apply for and receive.

"The Elko County network build was a complex project with many unique permitting challenges," said Rob Oyler, CEO of WANRack. "The network crossed federal properties, mining operations, large swaths of private land, interstates, county roads, waterways, and protected wildlife areas. Our construction teams manage dozens of permits per project, but the scale and complexity here on just one project really gave me confidence in how deep and experienced our team "bench" is today." With all these challenges and longer timelines, the project finished on budget and within the E-Rate deadline.

The new network now provides the Elko County Schools with speeds hundreds of times faster than were previously available. Additionally, the network has robust security and massive scalability at no additional cost, allowing the district new opportunities for their students and staff. With the new network, the district can add unlimited applications for IP Cameras, teacher apps, phones, and lunch cards.

About OSIT: OSIT coordinates the planning, mapping, and procurement of broadband to ensure connectivity across Nevada for schools, libraries, hospitals, clinics and communities meets national standards.

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