

Letter from the CEO,
Barbara DeGarmo



Dear Broadband Communities friend,

We want to say how much we are looking forward to **SEEING** you in person at the 2021 Broadband Communities Summit, Sept. 27 – 30 at the Marriott Marquis Houston. More than 50 sessions await you, full of outstanding speakers providing you the latest information about the industry, as we focus on rekindling our connections and **TAKING ACTION** in the post-pandemic economy.

It's all about meeting, engaging and doing as we hear from both experienced and new voices on driving change, innovation and evolution in our broadband communities as we work to create a more connected future.

As pleased as I am to tell you about our outstanding program, I also want to assure you that we take our responsibility to keep you safe and well while you are in Houston with us very seriously. We have a mask mandate in place, we have designed the meeting spaces and the Exhibit Hall to provide plenty of room for social distancing and we and the hotel have enhanced cleaning practices in place.

We also know we can count on you to do your part in keeping yourself and your fellow attendees safe. We are one community, full of members who care about and look after each other.

Community is more than just a name for us; it's an integral part of who we are. Those like myself and my staff members with individuals in our families who are not fully vaccinated or who are immunosuppressed have done everything we can to protect ourselves and our families. Please join us in our concern for the well-being of our wider broadband community.

Amenities at the hotel are open – including that fabulous Texas-shaped lazy river pool where we'll raise an opening night toast to surviving and thriving and committing ourselves to never stopping until we all live in a high-speed broadband community.

Let's also raise a toast to new funds that go a long way toward closing the digital divide. At the Summit, we'll tell you who's got them and how you can get them. We're also proud to welcome a keynoter who's spending his city's new broadband-related funds equitably, wisely and well.

We at Broadband Communities are determined to make this a safe, highly informative, must-attend event.

Cheers and see you in Houston!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara DeGarmo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Barbara DeGarmo CEO