



Governor Abbott Appoints Akbar Kara to Governor's Broadband Development Council

Lubbock, Texas (August 24, 2021) - Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Akbar Kara, Bill Hetherington, and Hatch Smith, Jr. to the Governor's Broadband Development Council (GBDC) for terms set to expire on August 31, 2026. The GBDC was established in 2019 in order to study and identify ways to provide Internet to underserved areas of Texas. The council's duties include: research the progress of broadband development in unserved areas; identify barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas; study technology-neutral solutions to overcome barriers identified under Subdivision; and analyze how statewide access to broadband would benefit economic development; the delivery of educational opportunities in higher education and public education; state and local law enforcement; state emergency preparedness; and the delivery of health care services, including telemedicine and telehealth.

"I am truly humbled by this opportunity to serve my fellow Texans in rural and underserved regions," said Akbar Kara, President and CEO of LEARN. Click [here](#) to read the announcement from Governor Abbott's office.

About: LEARN: Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN) is a consortium of 43 organizations throughout Texas that include public and private institutions of higher education, community colleges, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN), and K-12 public schools. The consortium, organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, connects its members and over 300 affiliated organizations to statewide resources through high performance optical and IP network services to support their research, education, healthcare, and public service missions. LEARN is also a leading member of a national community of advanced research networks, providing Texas connectivity to national and international research and education networks, enabling cutting-edge research that is increasingly dependent upon sharing large volumes of electronic data.