

**MINUTES****JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY****Wednesday, June 20, 2012****8:45 a.m.****U of A at Monticello – Conference Room A, Taylor Library & Technology Center  
Monticello, Arkansas**

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The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology met on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at 8:45 a.m., on the campus of University of Arkansas at Monticello, Conference Room A, Taylor Library & Technology Center in Monticello, Arkansas. The following committee members attended:

Senator Linda Chesterfield, Chair and Representatives Mike Patterson, Vice Chair and Stephen Meeks, (alternate).

Also attending: Senator Gene Jeffress and Representatives James Ratliff.

Senator Chesterfield called the meeting to order. She recognized Representative Patterson for welcoming remarks and comments. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that he was looking forward to attending the Economic Development Summit. He noted that this is a great opportunity for the committee members to be educated on this topic.

Senator Chesterfield stated that the Committee is dealing with many issues related to broadband capacity. She said that we are looking at the next Civil Rights movement that the state has to become a part of noting that if the digital divide continues there will be two Americas. Senator Chesterfield also stressed the importance of all children having the opportunity to take advantage of technological advances every single day.

Senator Chesterfield stated that Arkansas schools are not ready for the Common Core Assessment that will be implemented in 2014, noting that the Committee is working with entities to get there. She stated that schools are inadequate unless there is sufficiency of broadband capacity in our schools. She also stated that there will be future joint committee meetings with the Education Committee to address these issues and concerns.

Senator Chesterfield concluded by recognizing guests for introductions and comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.