



**For Release September 18, 2008**

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**NATOA Names Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels  
Community Broadband Visionary of the Year**

**Atlanta, GA – September 18, 2008** – The NATOA Board of Directors is honored to announce that the recipient of the 2008 Community Broadband Visionary of the Year award is **Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle**, for his visionary efforts to secure the benefits of world-class broadband technology for the citizens and businesses of Seattle.

Under Mayor Nickels' leadership, Seattle has undertaken a multi-year process to determine how to best meet its citizens' and businesses' communications needs. As a result, Mayor Nickels has announced his intention to seek private sector partners to work with the City to bring the benefits of next generation broadband to Seattle. Seattle has been at the forefront in recognizing that high-speed communications are essential to continued technology leadership, economic development, and global competitiveness.

"NATOA applauds Mayor Nickels for his leadership and efforts to bring fiber optic networking to Seattle," said NATOA's President, Doris J. Boris. "We are proud to honor the Mayor for recognizing the importance of fiber optics to economic and community development, and for taking steps to secure the benefits of fiber for his constituents."

The 2008 NATOA Community Broadband Awards were awarded to six exceptional leaders and organizations in government, business, and the community who champion community interests in broadband deployment and work to ensure that more Americans can experience the benefits of this important technology.

For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA's efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org) or contact NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at the number above.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.