



For More Information:

Lynn Bliss
(870) 877-3202

www.deshaforward.org
www.connect-arkansas.org

For Immediate Release

DeshaForward e-Community Committee Update

McGehee, AR. (November 24, 2008) - The DeshaForward e-Communities Committee held a teleconference meeting Monday afternoon, November 24. Plans are underway for Focus Group Survey Interviews to be conducted in early December. The Focus Groups will cover Healthcare, Education and Economic Development. Plans are also underway for the Comprehensive county-wide survey which will begin after the first of the year. Marketing plans were also discussed.

Recent articles in state-wide and national newspapers continue to support DeshaForward's e-Community Committee's mission regarding the importance and impact of Broadband access for rural communities. Broadband is the gateway to the world for economic development for these communities. For example, businesses such as Eleutian Technology hire teachers in the remote areas of Wyoming to teach the English language to residents of foreign countries via Skype. Virtual Assistants provide administrative and clerical assistance to businessmen and businesswomen throughout the United States. Hundreds of travel agents work from their homes providing bookings for clients located thousands of miles away.

The mission statement of the e-Communities Committee is: "To prepare a plan to identify, analyze and implement information technology for all citizens of Desha County using and developing the resources of the e-Community Committee, the DeshaForward Steering Committee and all other interested stakeholders."

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For more updates or information about the DeshaForward e-Community program, contact Lynn Bliss at (870) 877-3202. You can also find additional information at www.DeshaForward.org or www.Connect-Arkansas.org.