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GIGABIT UPGRADE ANNOUNCED FOR ND SCHOOLS

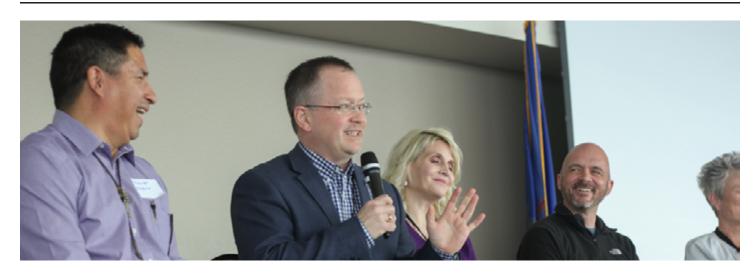
Gov. Doug Burgum, along with State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Chief Information Officer Shawn Riley and Dakota Carrier Network CEO Seth Arndorfer, announced on Thursday <u>a 100-gigabit upgrade</u> to the state network that will put North Dakota schools and government on the nation's leading edge of internet connectivity and speed. When finished in the summer of 2019, the upgrades will position North Dakota as the first state to achieve 1-gigabit connectivity to every school district in the state.

GERHART TO RETIRE AFTER 26 YEARS

On Thursday, Gov. Burgum <u>expressed his deepest grat-</u> itude to Col. Michael Gerhart Jr., who announced he will retire June 30 after 26 years of service to the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Serving as Highway Patrol Superintendent since 2014, Gerhart has spent his entire law enforcement career with the agency, starting as a trooper in 1992. He was promoted to sergeant in 2004 and to lieutenant in August 2007, serving as the patrol's safety and education officer. He was training director of the Law Enforcement Training Academy before being promoted to major in 2011 and serving as the field operations commander. "The Highway Patrol is a stronger agency and North Dakota is a safer place because of Col. Gerhart's



exceptional service as a law enforcement officer and leader," Burgum said.



EXTENDED CABINET GROUP MEETS FOR SECOND TIME

Tuesday marked the second meeting of the Extended Cabinet Leadership (XCL). The group formed by the Burgum administration consists of cabinet leaders and members of their senior staff and meets quarterly. Those attending the meeting at Bismarck State College heard from Gov. Burgum, participated in exercises designed to help them leverage their strengths, and submitted questions to a panel of cabinet leaders, including Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford.





RECOVERY REINVENTED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

Gov. Doug Burgum on Friday <u>an-</u> nounced the members of the Office of <u>Recovery Reinvented Advisory Coun-</u> <u>cil</u>. The council will support strategic efforts to strengthen recovery services and eliminate the shame and stigma of the disease of addiction in North Dakota. The Office of Recovery Reinvented was established by executive order <u>in January</u> and consists of First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum as chair and six members appointed by the gover-

nor. More than 50 people applied, representing the areas of recovery, behavioral health, education, community, tribal leadership, criminal justice and families impacted by the disease of addiction. Find the full list of appointees <u>here</u>.



SUPREME COURT ARGUMENTS HEARD

The North Dakota Supreme Court heard arguments Monday in a lawsuit brought by the state Legislature challenging the governor's veto authority related to vetoes issued at the end of the 2017 legislative session. <u>Gov. Burgum attended oral arguments</u> as Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem outlined their case. "A key underpinning of democracy is our system of checks and balances, and we're defending the governor's veto authority as an essential check on spending to ensure taxpayer dollars are used as efficiently and effectively as possible," Burgum said.

Photo courtesy: Mike McCleary, Bismarck Tribune