



Takayoshi Oshima, Bryson Payne and Bruce Abraham were sat at the head of the table of about 15 contributors to discuss strategies to "let the world know we have a high-speed optical network" coming to North Georgia, Abraham said. Abraham is the CEO of North Georgia Network. Payne is the Director of IT for North Georgia College & State University and Oshima is the CEO of Allied Telesis. (Staff photo/SHARON HALL)

NGN seeks to spread the word on coming broadband ability

By Sharon Hall
The Nugget

About 15 people, from a local entrepreneur with a global product to a branding and marketing expert, economic development authority directors, a college professor, the head of a company that offer network solutions to the global marketplace and representatives of North Georgia Network (NGN) met at North Georgia College & State University last week. The objective of the gathering was to strategize on ways communities can take advantage of the high speed fiber network NGN is building in North Georgia.

"It's a phenomena we've found, particularly when talking to businesses, that they don't know what they can do with a high-speed net-

work," said Bruce Abraham, CEO of NGN. "We're finding this project is an education process to show people what economic development benefits can be created through technology."

Several different project ideas came from the meeting, Abraham said. One is to partner with Allied Telesis to stage an exhibition. "A show and tell of what this optic network can do," he said.

Allied Telesis is one of the world's leading companies in delivering network solutions in the triple-play world of voice, data and video transmission. The 25-year-old company operates in 23 countries world-wide. It does everything from manufacture hardware to offering software and support for the medical profes-

sion, businesses and educational facilities.

Abraham said the company can help demonstrate what a high-speed optical network can do.

"We want to tell the world we have a high-speed optical network, and start the pull power for specific industries—healthcare and education—as well as general business," he said.

NGN already has 225 out of about 800 miles of the fiber network built. Currently, he said work is being done to bridge the gap across the Appalachian Mountains between Habersham and Amicalola EMCs.

The \$36 million project is in budget and on schedule to be complete in December 2012.

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