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ADTRAN Congratulates Valparaiso on its Push to Win America's Best Communities

ADTRAN supports Valparaiso in \$10 million America's Best Communities competition — sponsored by Frontier Communications, DISH Network, The Weather Channel and CoBank — aiming to spark innovation and growth in small towns

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—January 07, 2016 — ADTRAN today congratulated Valparaiso, Indiana on the new Community Revitalization Plan that local leaders completed to continue the city's push to win the \$10 million America's Best Communities competition, which aims to jumpstart economic development and investment in small towns and cities across America. ADTRAN and Valparaiso have been working together to create a comprehensive and innovative plan for the city. The partnership complements the high level of civic engagement already thriving among the city's local businesses and residents.

"Supporting the America's Best Communities competition has been a natural extension of our *Enabling Communities, Connecting Lives* program. Both aim to transform communities by leveraging Gigabit broadband services to enable economic development and overall growth for businesses and residents," said Gary Bolton, vice president of global marketing at ADTRAN. "It has been truly inspiring to see people throughout Valparaiso come together to create an innovative vision that will strengthen the local economy and enhance quality of life. We couldn't be prouder to support Valparaiso in the America's Best Communities competition and are excited to see what this vibrant community does next on its journey to an even better tomorrow."

The city of Valparaiso's plans involve developing an interactive Creative District to further cultivate community arts and culture activity. The Creative District will maximize new technologies, such as digital media, to make Valparaiso more dynamic, and will offer residents of all ages a special place to gather, interact and find meaningful work. As a result, even stronger community partnerships will be built among artists, government, businesses, customers, students and more.

As part of the America's Best Communities Adopt-a-Community program, ADTRAN partnered with Valparaiso to assist in its efforts to develop a revitalization plan. The best plans — those with the most innovative ideas being effectively implemented — will win additional investments in the next rounds of the competition.

Across the country, only 50 top communities advanced into the quarterfinals, and in January, the lead sponsors of the America's Best Communities competition — Frontier Communications, DISH Network,

CoBank and The Weather Channel — will announce the 15 communities that advance into the semifinals of this innovative campaign.

Of those 15 communities, eight will be selected as finalists and win \$100,000 to implement their revitalization plans. After several months of executing their plans, the top three communities that show the most progress and potential to deliver on their dreams will share grand prizes that total \$6 million — \$3 million for first place, \$2 million for second and \$1 million for third.

ADTRAN was one of 50 companies that participated in the Adopt-a-Community Program. Others included AT&T, Campbell's Soup, Chobani, Dow, KPMG, Verizon, Boeing, Corning and Xerox.

For more on America's Best Communities and its Adopt-a-Community Program, visit www.americasbestcommunities.com.

About ADTRAN

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