

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband Elects New President, Officers, and Directors**

**HELENA, MT – (October 6, 2021)** – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is pleased to announce the election of its new officers for the coming two years: **Jimmy Todd**, CEO/GM of Nex-Tech (KS), as President; **Pat McElroy**, CEO/GM of Northeast Nebraska Telephone (NE), as Vice-President; **Jason Williams**, CEO of Blackfoot Communications (MT), as Secretary-Treasurer; and **David Shipley**, COO of USConnect (CO) as Past President.

Additionally, **Mike George**, President/CEO of Northeast Louisiana Telephone Co. (LA); **Mark Gailey**, President/GM of Totah Communications (OK); **Jack Keen**, CEO of WNM Communications (NM); **Kristi Lee**, COO of Valley Telecom Group (AZ); **Kent Schimke**, CEO/GM of DRN (ND); and **Steven Sanders Jr.**, President/GM of NATCO (AR), were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

“I’m excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to leading our Association for the next two years,” said Jimmy Todd. “I greatly appreciate the WTA Board of Directors putting their trust in me. WTA is a strong, national association, and I will work hard to ensure the work of my predecessors is continued and the companies we represent continue to have the tools they need to bring broadband to the most rural parts of America.”

The WTA membership also elected the following members who will serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors: **Eric Votaw**, President/CEO of Varcomm (CA); **John Stuart**, President/CEO of MTE Communications (ID); **Jimmy Todd**; **Jason Williams**; **Mark Feest**, GM of CC Communications (NV); **Glenn Lovelace**, CEO of Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative; and **Bruce Todd**, CEO/GM of STRATA Networks (UT).

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*WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband represents more than 360 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA’s members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit [www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org).*