



## Veterans Telemedicine Centers launched in Abbeville, Greenwood

*WCFIBER, Department of Veterans Affairs, Foundation for Rural Service, Abbeville County Library System team up to solve medical access challenge for veterans*

MAY 20, 2022 -- Veterans in Abbeville and Greenwood counties can now see their doctors without having to leave town.

Industry and community representatives, together with Veterans Affairs officials, cut the ribbon today on the Abbeville and Greenwood Telemedicine Centers, marking another step forward in improving healthcare access to South Carolina's veterans.

The Abbeville County Library System and the Greenwood County Veterans Center now include private rooms featuring comfortable furniture, computers, webcams, high-speed fiber internet and most importantly, a connection to Veterans Affairs medical teams across South Carolina.

A joint project between WCFIBER, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Greenwood County Veterans Center, the Foundation for Rural Service and the Abbeville County Library system, the Telemedicine Centers are free of use and available to all veterans receiving medical benefits.

"Today, our veterans often have to travel great lengths to receive medical care," said WCFIBER CEO Jeff Wilson. "Oftentimes check-ins can be accomplished virtually. And today, Abbeville and Greenwood now have a welcoming room where veterans of all ages can come in and connect with their health care team.

"I know there are many other opportunities to build on this momentum, and I challenge everyone here to think critically on what more we can do for those who have sacrificed so much for us."

WCFIBER Board Chairman Wes McAllister officially cut the ribbon at both ceremonies and discussed the importance of community leadership and veteran support.

"As the area's broadband provider, we're not just here to serve broadband and services," McAllister said. "We're here to help our communities be vibrant, innovative and sustainable.

“We are blessed to have so many veterans in our area. We would not be here without our veterans. These centers are about them. They fought for us so we can enjoy our day-to-day freedoms. We owe it to them to give back and take care of them.”

The Telemedicine Centers will serve Greenwood County’s 4,600+ veterans and Abbeville County’s 1,600+ veterans, saving them travel time and expenses, while providing more immediate direct care.

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*Photo cutlines: WCFIBER Community Affairs/Economic Development Strategist Stephen Taylor, SC Dept of Veterans’ Affairs Director of Training and Standardization Steven Noonan, Greenwood County Manager Tony Chappells, WCTEL Board Chairman Wes McAllister, Greenwood County Council Chairman Chuck Montez, SC Senator Billy Garrett, Columbia VA Health Care System Associate Director of Patient Care and Nursing Services Dr. Ruth Mustard, VSO Greenwood County and Director of Greenwood County Veterans Affairs Center Rosalind Burke, SC Representative John McCravy III, SC Representative Anne Parks, Columbia VA Health Care System Supervisory Program Specialist and Facility Telehealth Coordinator Keishon Williams, WCFIBER CEO Jeff Wilson, and area veterans cut the ribbon for the new Veterans Telemedicine Center at the Greenwood County Veterans Affairs Center.*

#### About WCFIBER

*The West Carolina Tel family of companies, including WCTEL, WCFIBER, and Upcountry Fiber, combine a tradition of service with the best technology available. Friendly, community-minded employees are committed to building a fiber network that is ready for whatever the future of technology may hold. The fiber optic network provides voice, data, video, security, and hosted business services in upstate South Carolina to include McCormick County, Abbeville County, and the city of Newberry as well as parts of Anderson County, Greenwood County, Oconee County, Pickens County, Greenville County, Spartanburg County, and Columbia County, GA. To find out more about West Carolina Tel, visit [www.wctel.com](http://www.wctel.com). West Carolina Tel is designated as a nationally recognized Smart Rural Community and Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association.*