Friday Otuya *Community Engagement Specialist* Nex-Tech

Friday Otuya has a passion to see rural places thrive in the new economy. He currently serves as the Community Engagement Specialist of Nex-Tech, where he engages with local, regional, and national leaders spread across over 50 communities and over 20 counties and in northwest and central Kansas. On a day-to-day basis he works with various stakeholders to figure out innovative ways to foster rural economic development, especially by leveraging infrastructure like fiber broadband. He also administers Nex-Tech's portfolio of loans and grants including the USDA REDLG program. He holds a master's degree in



international studies from the University of Wyoming, and a bachelor's degree in mass communications. He is the recipient of several awards and scholarships for working with others to build and create change in society, including being recognized as a Semifinalist of the U.S. Presidential Management Fellowship in 2022.