

**FEBRUARY 23, 2023 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm**

**Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, NE  
Washington, DC**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

HEATHER GATE, Chair; Connected Nation  
NICOL TURNER LEE, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Brookings Institution  
SUSAN AU ALLEN, Vice Chair; U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education  
Foundation  
JENNA ALSAYEGH, USTelecom  
CLAYTON BANKS, Silicon Harlem  
MATTHEW BAUER, Wireless Research Center  
FAITH BAUTISTA, National Diversity Coalition  
ROBERT BRANSON, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council  
ROBERT BROOKS, WHUR-FM, Howard University  
YVETTE BADU-NIMAKO, National Urban League  
MICHELE COBER, Verizon  
MELODY SPANN COOPER, Midway Broadcasting Corporation  
SUSAN CORBETT, National Digital Equity Center  
BRIGITTE DANIEL CORBIN, Wilco Electronic Systems  
GRAHAM "SKIP" DILLARD, WQHT-FM/WBLS-FM New York City, MediaCo Inc.  
REBECCA GIBBONS, Office for Community Technology, City of Portland, Oregon  
ANISA GREEN, AT&T  
CHARLES HARRELL, The IT Architect  
DOMINIQUE HARRISON, Ph.D., Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
HOOMAN HEDAYATI, Communications Workers of America  
DAVID HONIG, JulGlo Productions, LLC  
JENNIFER JACKSON, Stellar TV and Central City Productions  
CHRIS JAMES, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development  
SHERMAN KIZART, Kizart Media Partners  
LETICIA LATINO-VAN SPLUNTEREN, Neptuno USA  
NICOLAINE LAZARRE, Charter Communications  
EVE LEWIS, City of Coconut Creek, Florida  
DIANNE LYNCH, PhD, Stephens College  
ROSA MENDOZA, ALLvanza  
AAMA NAHUJA, A Wonder Media Company

LOUIS PERAERTZ, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association  
STEVEN ROBERTS, The Roberts Companies  
BRIAN SCARPELLI, ACT/The App Association  
CHARLYN STANBERRY, National Association of Broadcasters  
ALICIA TAMBE, Meta  
JOYCELYN TATE, Black Women's Roundtable, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
ANTONIO TIJERINO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation  
ANTONIO WILLIAMS, Comcast  
JAMES WINSTON, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters  
CHRISTOPHER WOOD, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute

COMMISSION STAFF:

JAMILA BESS JOHNSON, Designated Federal Officer  
DIANA COHO, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Specialist, Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau  
AURÉLIE MATHIEU, Attorney Advisor, Wireless Competition Bureau  
RADHIKA KARMARKAR, Chief, Industry Analysis Division, Media Bureau

**Link to February 23, 2023 Meeting Transcript:** <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-02232023-transcript.pdf>

**Welcome and Opening of Meeting:** Radhika Karmarkar, Chief, Industry Analysis Division, of the Media Bureau, provided a recap of the July 22, 2022, and November 7, 2022, meetings in which the CEDC adopted recommendations from its three (3) working groups concerning best practices to prevent digital discrimination and promote digital equity for all Americans. Ms. Karmarkar reminded the CEDC of FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel's charge regarding her request to the CEDC for recommendations to prevent digital discrimination, as well as the public release of the Digital Discrimination Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in December 2022. Ms. Karmarkar thanked the Council for their diligent work and looked forward to hearing updates from the working groups. Jamila Bess Johnson, CEDC Designated Federal Officer, Media Bureau, provided opening remarks, and introduced Aurélie Mathieu, Attorney Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Diana Coho, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Specialist, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, for introductory comments.

**CEDC Chair and Vice Chairs' Opening Remarks.** Heather Gate, CEDC Chair and member representative for Connected Nation, highlighted the work of each working group since the last meeting, and provided an overview of the upcoming events and reports the working groups are currently planning. Ms. Gate encouraged members to collaborate and be prepared to return in June with the final recommendations to the FCC. She added that there is a lot at stake and this work will create the opportunity to implement full results.

Nicol Turner Lee, Ph.D., CEDC Vice Chair (Brookings Institution), reminded members that this has not been an easy task. Dr. Turner Lee emphasized the importance of the work for addressing broadband equity and inclusion, as well as supplier diversity in broadband. Susan Au Allen, CEDC Vice Chair (US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation), explained that barriers to media ownership are usually institutional and systemic, especially for people of color, women, small and

independently-owned firms in media and technology – they have high hurdles to overcome. Ms. Allen emphasized that this underrepresentation must change and that we must build on the opportunities presented by the Instructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which provided a record investment for underserved communities toward broadband infrastructure.

**Roll Call of CEDC Members/Call to Order of February 23, 2023 Meeting.** A quorum was present at the meeting.

**Innovation and Access Working Group Report.** Robert Brooks, Chair of the Innovation and Access Working Group (I&A Working Group), representing WHUR-FM, Howard University, introduced each workstream of the I&A Working Group, and their respective participants. Brooks provided a summary of the efforts of Workstream 1 which submitted its report to and was adopted by the CEDC in July 2022, regarding recommendations to increase supplier diversity by states and localities in contracting and sub-contracting for IIJA-funded projects.

Charles Harrell II, member of Workstream 2 – Access to Capital of the I&A Working Group, shared the group’s goals which include providing opportunities for conversation, deliberation, and recommendations on how to assist small, minority- and women-owned (SMW) businesses in accessing wider opportunities for access to capital; and identifying best practices for public and private funders and other resource entities to provide support to diverse entrepreneurs. Workstream 2 will conduct research including collaboration with other CEDC members who may be subject matter experts on access to capital and supplier diversity; and interview industry experts in finance to compile information on challenges and barriers as well as opportunities for acquiring equity, Angel investments, and other sources of capital for minority entrepreneurs. The workstream group will compile their findings into a final report to be delivered to the full CEDC in June 2023. Jennifer J. Jackson, member of Workstream 2 – Access to Capital, provided an overview of the interviews which had been conducted to date by the group.

Matthew Bauer, Workstream Lead, Workstream 3 – Digital Skills Gap Training, I&A Working Group, highlighted the group’s goals which are to provide information regarding model resources for training to improve skills to increase educational, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities and sustainability. Bauer highlighted the workstream’s upcoming action items which include conducting research, collaborating with other CEDC members who may be subject matter experts on digital skills training and upskilling, and drafting a summary report and resource guide based on their research and public convening. Workstream 3 hosted the Digital Skills Symposium and Town Hall on September 22, 2022, and intends to deliver its final report by June 2023.

Susan Corbett, Dr. Dianne Lynch, Leticia Latino, Eve M. Lewis, all members of Workstream 3 – Digital Skills Gap Training, provided an outline of the group’s summary report and proposed resource guide.

**Diversity and Equity Working Group Report.** Chris Wood, Chair of the Diversity and Equity Working Group (D&E Working Group), representing LGBT Tech, provided background on the working group’s goals and highlighted the upcoming Digital Ecosystem Forum on March 6, 2023. The half-day virtual forum will focus on the future of work with the goal of providing tangible solutions to help ensure that historically underserved populations benefit from next generation technologies.

Melody Spann Cooper (Midway Broadcasting Corporation), Co-Lead of Workstream 4 – Ownership Diversity of the D&E Working Group, provided a recap of the February 7, 2023, media ownership

symposium. Workstream 4 intends to produce a comprehensive overview of the symposium and accompanying recommendations on media ownership diversity to the FCC.

**Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group Report.** Dr. Dominique Harrison (Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies), Chair of the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group (DEI Working Group), provided an overview of the working group and its mission, and highlighted that: (1) Workstream 2 will solicit information from key stakeholders across Internet Service Providers (ISPs), federal agencies with emergency broadband funding, state agencies, and community organizations to understand and identify lessons learned from programs that provided broadband connectivity to opportunity communities during the pandemic; and (2) Workstream 3 will conduct a public convening of key stakeholders across ISPs, federal agencies with emergency broadband funding, state agencies, and community organizations concerning programs that provided broadband connectivity to “opportunity communities” during the pandemic to exchange information on lessons learned from efforts to provide internet access to such communities during the pandemic.

Dr. Christopher Ali, Co-Lead Workstream 2, DEI Working Group, shared some of the early findings of their listening sessions with experts from the public and private sectors on broadband deployment, access and adoption during the pandemic. Vickie Robinson, Co-Lead Workstream 3, DEI Working Group, shared the objectives of the group’s upcoming public convening on March 23, 2023, such as distilling lessons learned about access to broadband services and tools needed to take advantage of broadband and digital technologies beyond the pandemic (e.g., affordable devices, digital skillset readiness, education, and workforce development skills).

**Questions/Comments from the Public.** There were no questions or comments from the public.

**Adjournment.** Following closing comments from CEDC Chair Gate, CEDC Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, CEDC Vice Chair Susan Au Allen, and FCC CEDC staff, the meeting was adjourned by CEDC Chair Gate.

#### CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I have reviewed the above minutes dated February 23, 2023, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are accurate and complete.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Gate, Executive Vice President, Digital Inclusion  
Connected Nation  
Chair, Communications Equity and Diversity Council  
Federal Communications Commission