

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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 COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL
 + + + + +
 MEETING
 + + + + +
 THURSDAY
 FEBRUARY 23, 2023
 + + + + +

The Council met via Video
 Teleconference, at 10:00 a.m. EST, Heather Gate,
 Chairwoman, presiding.

PRESENT:

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
 DOMINIQUE HARRISON, Ph.D., Joint Center for
 Political and Economic Studies

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HOOMAN HEDAYATI
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
RADHIKA KARMARKAR, Chief, Industry Analysis
Division, Media Bureau

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Welcome and Opening of Meeting	4
CEDC Chair/Vice Chairs' Opening Remarks	7
Call to Order of the February 23, 2023 CEDC Meeting/Roll Call of CEDC Members	22
Innovation and Access Working Group Report	30
Diversity and Equity Working Group	95
Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group Report	143
Questions/Comments from the Public	166
Adjournment	194

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:01 a.m.

1
2
3 MS. KARMARKAR: Good morning,
4 everyone, and welcome to the February 23, 2023
5 meeting of the Communications Equity and Diversity
6 Council.

7 My name is Radhika Karmarkar, and I'm
8 Chief of the Industry Analysis Division in the
9 Media Bureau.

10 It's great to be with you today. You
11 have a packed agenda today with each of the three
12 CEDC working groups providing an update on
13 activities since your last meeting on November 7,
14 2022.

15 At that last meeting, the CEDC adopted
16 recommendations for the FCC, prepared by each of
17 these three working groups. Those are Digital
18 Empowerment and Inclusion, or DEI, Innovation and
19 Access, and Diversity and Equity.

20 These recommendations concern best
21 practices to prevent digital discrimination and
22 promote digital equity.

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1 Upon adoption of those
2 recommendations, the FCC Chairwoman, Jessica
3 Rosenworcel noted in a public statement the
4 following, as part of the bipartisan
5 infrastructure law, Congress called on the FCC to
6 offer guidance for states and localities to help
7 prevent digital discrimination by internet access
8 providers.

9 I charge the CEDC to recommend model
10 policies and best practices for states and
11 localities.

12 This was a complex and critically
13 important task for the CEDC. And I thank the
14 members of the three working groups who worked so
15 diligently to provide this expert guidance.

16 Your contributions are greatly
17 appreciated, are an important step forward as we
18 tackle these issues both locally and nationally.

19 In December 2022, pursuant to the
20 Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act, the
21 FCC adopted a notice of proposed rulemaking
22 concerning the prevention and elimination of

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1 digital discrimination.

2 The CEDC's report and recommendations
3 were incorporated into that proceeding.

4 I know the CEDC has been incredibly busy
5 carrying out its charge to make recommendations
6 to the Commission on advancing equity in the
7 provision of and access to digital communication
8 services and products for all people of the United
9 States without discrimination on the basis of race,
10 color, religion, national origin, sex, or
11 disability.

12 Today, we look forward to hearing the
13 working groups updates regarding their recent
14 activities and efforts in furtherance of the CEDC's
15 charge.

16 Thank you so much for your commitment
17 and diligence and for the work that has already
18 been done. Your time and effort are greatly
19 appreciated.

20 And now, I'm going to turn over the mic
21 to Jamila.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Well, thank you. Thank

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1 you so much, Radhika, we're very happy to have you
2 join us today.

3 And I echo Radhika's sentiments
4 welcoming everyone to the February 2023 CEDC
5 meeting. We welcome all of our members, working
6 group members, subject matter experts, FCC staff,
7 and also members of the public.

8 It's been an incredibly productive and
9 busy time since we last met in November of 2022.

10 And so we expect a very robust reporting out today
11 of all of the activities that the working groups
12 have been endeavoring on in fulfillment of their
13 respective missions.

14 We also, in that interim period, have
15 had a new FCC staff person join us. And she will
16 bring her brief opening remarks and say hello to
17 you all.

18 And so I will turn it over now to Aurelie
19 Mathieu and Diana Coho who are FCC/CEDC staff.
20 Aurelie?

21 MS. MATHIEU: Good morning, all.
22 Thank you for the introduction, Jamila and for your

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1 remarks.

2 I'm Aurelie Mathieu. I'm an attorney
3 advisor in the Wireline Competition Bureau,
4 Competition Policy Division.

5 And I've been serving on the DEI working
6 groups since last year. And our groups have had
7 a lot done in the past year. And the end of the
8 charter, we have a lot to accomplish and I look
9 forward to shepherding these efforts.

10 And I want to thank everyone on each
11 working group and workstream for their diligent
12 efforts in fulfilling the CEDC's task thus far.

13 And we have -- we look forward to
14 continuing to work with you until the end of this
15 charter this year.

16 So I'll pass it over to Diana Coho who
17 also recently joined us. Diana?

18 MS. COHO: Good morning, thank you,
19 Aurelie and Jamila and everyone for your warm
20 welcome. And thank you all for joining us today.

21 This is, as you will see, a very busy
22 group and we have a great report out session and

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1 comments and all kinds of exciting things coming
2 up for you to observe and to participate with us.

3 So thank you, and there is so much to
4 report on and this is really a critical point now
5 where, as things wrap up, all the interviews and
6 events that have been planned and have taken place,
7 the various workstreams and work group members will
8 be writing recommendations for the FCC.

9 So this is an exciting time, a very
10 vibrant day planned, and with that, and a big thank
11 you to Heather Gate, I now turn this over to you.

12 Heather?

13 CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Diana and welcome to the CEDC and thank you for
15 jumping right in and acting like you've been here
16 from the beginning. It's absolutely fantastic.

17 So as the Council's chairwoman, I'm
18 pleased to welcome you all to this meeting. I'd
19 like to thank you, each and every one of you, for
20 taking time out of your busy schedules to be here
21 today.

22 But not only to be here today for all

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1 the work and time and treasure that you've put in
2 over the past few months.

3 This is a penultimate full Council
4 meeting under this charter. And it provides us
5 an opportunity to share what the working groups
6 have been working on over the past few months.

7 And it is a lot of work, from the
8 Innovation and Access Working Group hosting
9 additional skills gap symposium and town hall in
10 the fall of 2022, and exploring issues related to
11 access to capital for small minority and woman
12 owned businesses.

13 To the Diversity and Equity Working
14 Group hosting a symposium on how to expand digital
15 and media ownership opportunities for women and
16 minorities earlier this month and also planning
17 a digital ecosystem forum that will bring together
18 digital inclusion thought leaders and
19 practitioners to discuss issues related to digital
20 and technology up skilling and that -- how we can
21 work to include diversity in the current workforce.

22 This event will be taking place on March

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1 6th.

2 To the Digital Empowerment Inclusion
3 Working Group currently conducting listening
4 sessions on the lessons learned from the emergency
5 broadband programs that were launched during the
6 pandemic to also planning a public convening that
7 will take place on March 23.

8 This is a lot of work and a lot of time
9 that, not only CEDC members are putting time into,
10 but our Designated Federal Officers.

11 So we have a lot to discuss today. So
12 I would encourage everyone to participate fully
13 in the discussions and also make sure that you're
14 able to provide feedback to your fellow working
15 groups so that in June when we convene for our final
16 meetings, we are able to make recommendations that
17 will help to move the needle.

18 At the risk of repeating something that
19 you've heard over and over again over the past few
20 months, this is a pivotal moment in our history
21 for broadband deployment and advancing digital
22 equity. So our voices and our work is timely, and

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1 it matters.

2 And so I urge you all to make sure that
3 we are prepared to come back in June for a final
4 meeting with recommendations to the FCC that will
5 make sure that these broadband projects are
6 successful when it comes to issues of advancing
7 digital equity and equal opportunity.

8 So on behalf of myself and my co-chairs,
9 Dr. Nicol Turner Lee and Susan Au Allen, I would
10 like to extend my thanks to all the working group
11 members, to our Designated Federal Officers, to
12 Chairwoman Rosenworcel for this opportunity for
13 us to be on this platform to have this conversation.

14 So I won't take too much of the time.

15 I'm going to hand the floor over to my co-chair,
16 Dr. Turner-Lee to offer her opening comments.

17 DR. TURNER-LEE: Thank you very much,
18 Chairwoman Gate and to the FCC, Jamila Bess, as
19 well as the FCC designated leaders, we appreciate
20 you and we thank you. And Radhika, thank you for
21 your comments.

22 As Chairwoman Gate has actually

1 mentioned, there's a lot going on in this committee
2 and I want to echo the type of applause that she
3 gives to the tireless efforts of every member.

4 This has not been an easy task and it's
5 not been a tireless task. And I can say that as
6 a person who's been on this committee for a very,
7 very long time, that this is the hardest working
8 group that I have actually encountered on a federal
9 advisory.

10 With that being said, as Chairwoman
11 Gate has said, Susan, myself, and the Chairwoman
12 know that there's a lot more work to do.

13 In the first part of the charter, we've
14 basically accomplished a deep dive into some really
15 critical issues that are associated with the
16 current IIJA.

17 Now, it's time to put the pedal to the
18 metal and think about ways to ensure equitable and
19 inclusive access to this new ecosystem.

20 And so I'm just really happy to say in
21 my opening remarks that the works of the various
22 subgroups are really going to delve into something

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1 that is quite significant in the quest for
2 equitable broadband, and that is digital skilling,
3 workforce, supply diversity, as well as culturally
4 sensitive programs that recognize the importance
5 of local infrastructure and nontraditional anchor
6 institutions.

7 And so as we go through this meeting
8 for those who are joining us today, we know, so
9 far, that President Biden and Vice President Harris
10 under the IIJA has allocated Congress with
11 significant -- has allocated Commerce with
12 significant authority to do some really
13 interesting things to ensure that no one is left
14 behind in this digital divide.

15 We've already seen a series of grants
16 go to the Connecting Minorities Pilot Program at
17 Commerce to historically Black colleges, Hispanic
18 serving institutions, and other Tribal related
19 colleges that are actually receiving money to
20 either build computer labs, upgrade technology in
21 schools, or find ways to better connect
22 communities.

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1 We also know that states who want to
2 participate in the appropriations coming out of
3 the Digital Equity Act will have to come up with
4 comprehensive plans. And those plans also include
5 some commitment to workforce.

6 We just recently published a report out
7 of Brookings about the importance of re-imagining
8 the broadband workforce for people without a
9 college degree.

10 Friends, as we embark upon today's
11 meeting, I'm excited that the various subgroups
12 will be presenting some portion of this. Not only
13 are there jobs to be created as a result of this
14 new investment in broadband, there are also
15 supplying diversity opportunities.

16 So as you listen today, hear out the
17 various committees who are putting the dots
18 together in this big jigsaw puzzle that is actually
19 going on right now.

20 We, as a Committee, are just committed
21 to not make this a national experiment, but to
22 ensure that we address the disparities that come

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1 with not being connected once and for all.

2 So we are grateful to Chairwoman
3 Rosenworcel, the suite of commissioners that stand
4 beside her on this effort, and we are grateful for
5 all of the committee members and the public who
6 continue to see the value that this committee is
7 creating towards the development and establishment
8 of a more prefect, perfectly connected digital
9 union.

10 So, with that, I will pass it over to
11 our other Vice Chairwoman, Susan Allen, who will
12 offer her remarks before we delve into our pretty
13 heavy agenda for today. Thank you.

14 MS. ALLEN: Thank you, Dr. Nicol
15 Turner-Lee. And good morning everybody. I'm
16 Susan Allen, and I am honored to serve as a Vice
17 Chair of our Communications, Equity and Diversity
18 Council of the CEDC.

19 I want to echo my chair and vice chair's
20 thanks to all of the hard working people at the
21 FCC, of course, under the leadership of Chairwoman
22 Rosenworcel, and our very hard working Council

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1 members and working group members.

2 I also proudly lead the U.S. Pan-Asian
3 American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation,
4 serving as its national president and CEO. And
5 it is in this capacity that I serve as your vice
6 chair.

7 And it's great seeing all of you here,
8 CEDC Chair Helen Gate, my fellow Vice Chair,
9 beautiful Nicol Turner-Lee, Dr. Turner-Lee, and
10 our fellow Council members.

11 Today, we share the latest
12 consequential and impactful work. We have been
13 advancing through the CEDC since October 2021.

14 Our Innovation and Access Working Group
15 will report on reducing entry barriers,
16 facilitating media ownership to add diverse
17 viewpoints and voices and closing our nation's
18 significant digital divide.

19 While broadcast and cable television
20 viewing comprised over 60 percent of total viewing,
21 only a fraction of networks are certified as
22 diverse owned, with little ownership that is Asian,

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1 Hispanic, and Native American.

2 Barriers to media ownership are often
3 institutional and systemic, especially for people
4 of color, women, small and independently owned
5 firms in media and technology. They have high
6 hurdles to overcome.

7 Frankly, America is nowhere near a
8 level playing field in terms of inclusive minority
9 ownership and genuine competition that ensures a
10 diversity of voices are heard, and that is part
11 of the national dialogue. This
12 under-representation must change.

13 At our Media Ownership Diversity
14 Symposium about two weeks ago where we explored
15 the challenges and potential creative solutions
16 to increasing ownership opportunities in all
17 facets of media, I had the pleasure of having Diana
18 Dane, founder of Ding Ding TV in Silicon Valley
19 as my special guest to speak.

20 She shared her unique perspective as
21 a 15-year woman and minority media owner. And she
22 underscored the mountains that women and

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1 minorities must move to gain a presence and why
2 it is important to make media ownership much more
3 inclusive, diverse, and representative of
4 disadvantaged communities so that America could
5 hear a diversity of voices which are part of the
6 important national dialogue.

7 Regarding the digital divide and
8 digital skills deck, our country ranks a shocking
9 29th on the global digital literacy scale.
10 Twenty-ninth in the world.

11 The lack of broadband access and
12 requisite digital skills for our workforce,
13 America's workforce, is hurting our collective
14 future as a country.

15 Over 92 percent of all jobs now require
16 digital skills. Yet, as many as one-third of
17 American workers don't have foundational skills,
18 and workers of color fall disproportionately into
19 this category.

20 Digital skills, development youth is
21 a significant return on investment. For workers
22 who qualify for jobs with just one digital skill

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1 earn an average of 23 percent more than those in
2 jobs requiring no such skills, increasing their
3 annual pay by \$8,000.

4 We can, we should, and we must build
5 on the generational opportunities presented today
6 by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the
7 IIJA, which provides us a record \$41.25 billion
8 investment for underserved communities toward
9 broadband infrastructure.

10 We all want to see the considerable IIJA
11 investment move expeditiously through the safe and
12 enter traditionally disadvantaged local
13 communities where it will have a major possible
14 impact.

15 Without question, ensuring a diversity
16 of voices and views through increased minority
17 media ownership, and closing the digital divide
18 are true public goods, outcomes that we must
19 continue to strive toward.

20 I look forward to today's presentations
21 of our working group reports and exploration of
22 the challenges and opportunities surrounding these

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1 issues.

2 Thank you.

3 Now, back to you, Heather.

4 CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much Susan
5 and Nicol.

6 As you heard from my love co-chairs,
7 there's a lot at stake with the work that we're
8 doing and we have an opportunity to influence real
9 results at this point.

10 So without much ado, I would like to
11 call to order the CEDC meeting of February 23, 2023.

12 Jamila, if you would like to assist me
13 with roll call, I would appreciate it very much
14 and we can get right into our working group reports.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you, Madam
16 Chair. Beginning with the roll today, February
17 23, 2023. Chair Heather Gate?

18 CHAIR GATE: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Vice Chair Nicol -- Dr.
20 Nicol Turner-Lee?

21 DR. TURNER-LEE: Present.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Vice Chair Susan Allen?

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1 MS. ALLEN: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Digital Empowerment and
3 Inclusion Working Group Chair, Dr. Dominique
4 Harrison?

5 DR. HARRISON: Present.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 Clayton Banks?

8 Clayton Banks, can you signify --

9 MR. BANKS: Yes, did you hear me? Did
10 you hear me?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you. I have
12 you now, thank you, Clayton.

13 Robert Branson?

14 MR. BRANSON: Present.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 Yvette Badu-Nimako?

17 MS. BADU-NIMAKO: Present.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Michele Cober?

19 MS. COBER: Present.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Sarah Kate Ellis?

21 Sarah Kate Ellis?

22 Okay, I believe I heard present.

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1 Rebecca Gibbons?
2 Rebecca Gibbons?
3 Chris James?
4 MR. JAMES: Present.
5 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.
6 Broderick Johnson?
7 Or Antonio Williams?
8 Broderick Johnson?
9 Or Antonio Williams?
10 Nicolaine Lazarre?
11 MS. LAZARRE: Present.
12 MS. JOHNSON: Louis Peraertz?
13 MR. PERAERTZ: Present.
14 MS. JOHNSON: Vickie Robinson?
15 MS. ROBINSON: Present.
16 MS. JOHNSON: Vickie Robinson?
17 MS. ROBINSON: Present.
18 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.
19 Matthew Wood?
20 Matthew Wood?
21 Anisa Green?
22 MS. GREEN: Present.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Hooman Hedayati?
2 MR. HEDAYATI: Present.
3 MS. JOHNSON: John C. Yang?
4 John C. Yang?
5 Dr. Christopher Ali?
6 Dr. Christopher Ali?
7 Dr. Jon Gant?
8 Dr. Jon Gant?
9 Robert Brooks?
10 MR. BROOKS: Present.
11 MS. JOHNSON: Raul Alarcon?
12 Raul Alarcon?
13 Matthew Bauer?
14 MR. BAUER: Present.
15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.
16 Caroline Beasley?
17 Caroline Beasley?
18 Edgar Class has indicated he would not
19 be available this morning.
20 Cecelia Gordon?
21 Cecelia Gordon?
22 David Honig?

1 MR. HONIG: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Sherman Kizart?

3 MR. KIZART: Present.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Henry Rivera?

5 Henry Rivera?

6 Steven Roberts?

7 MR. ROBERTS: Present, good morning,

8 everyone.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning.

10 Joycelyn Tate?

11 MS. TATE: Present.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Barbara Ciara?

13 Barbara Ciara?

14 Susan Corbett?

15 MS. CORBETT: Present.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Monica Desai?

17 Or Alicia Tambe?

18 MS. TAMBE: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Charles Harrell?

20 MR. HARRELL: Present.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Howie Hodges indicated

22 he would not be available this morning.

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1 Jennifer Jackson?
2 MS. JACKSON: Present.
3 MS. JOHNSON: Leticia Latino-van
4 Splunteren?
5 MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUNTEREN: Present.
6 MS. JOHNSON: Eve Lewis?
7 MS. LEWIS: Present.
8 MS. JOHNSON: Dr. Dianne Lynch?
9 DR. LYNCH: Present.
10 MS. JOHNSON: Christopher Wood?
11 MR. WOOD: Present.
12 MS. JOHNSON: Diversity and Equity
13 Working Group Chair, Melody Spann Cooper?
14 MS. COOPER: Present.
15 MS. JOHNSON: Graham Skip Dillard?
16 Skip Dillard?
17 Jill Hart?
18 Dr. Ronald Johnson?
19 Dr. Ronald Johnson?
20 Rosa Mendoza?
21 Rosa Mendoza?
22 Aama Nahuja?

1 MS. NAHUJA: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Brian Scarpelli?

3 MR. SCARPELLI: Present, good morning.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning.

5 Charlyn Stanberry?

6 MS. STANBERRY: Present.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Antonio Tijerino?

8 Antonio Tijerino?

9 MR. TIJERINO: Present. Can you guys
10 not hear me?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you.

12 MR. TIJERINO: Okay.

13 MS. JOHNSON: James Winston?

14 MR. WINSTON: Present.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, James.

16 Jenna Alsayegh?

17 MS. ALSAYEGH: Present.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Faith Bautista?

19 MS. BAUTISTA: Present.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Brigitte Daniel-Corbin?

21 MS. DANIEL-CORBIN: Good morning,
22 everybody, present.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning.

2 MS. DANIEL-CORBIN: I know, yes,
3 visitor.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Welcome back.

5 Otto Padron?

6 Otto Padron?

7 Randy Parker?

8 Randy Parker?

9 Ellen Schned?

10 Ellen Schned?

11 Dr. Kathy Schubert?

12 DR. TURNER-LEE: Jamila, remember,
13 Ellen was on a little earlier.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, she was, she was.

15 Dr. Kathy Schubert?

16 And lastly, Mona Thompson?

17 Mona Thompson?

18 Well, that completes the roll, Madam
19 Chair. And you have a quorum for your meeting
20 today.

21 CHAIR GATE: Thank you.

22 DR. TURNER-LEE: Chairwoman, I just

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1 want to make sure, Otto -- Jamila, Otto was actually
2 noted, too.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Jamila, this is Antonio
5 Williams, I also just joined.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Antonio.

7 MS. GIBBONS: And Rebecca is present,
8 too, thank you.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Rebecca.

10 Should we ask if anybody else has
11 joined, Chairwoman, before we start?

12 MS. MENDOZA: This Rosa Mendoza.

13 CHAIR GATE: Good morning, Rosa.

14 MS. MENDOZA: Good morning, all. I'm
15 sorry, I have a cold, so I sound very weird. I'll
16 put myself on mute.

17 CHAIR GATE: You sound great.

18 Well, thank you, Jamila, we have a
19 quorum to proceed with our day.

20 And to kick off our day, we are going
21 to start with the Innovation and Access Working
22 Group.

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1 And so I would like to welcome our Chair
2 for the working group, Robert Brooks, to take the
3 floor and lead us through the workstream
4 presentations.

5 Thank you so much, Nicol and Susan.

6 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, everybody.

7 My name is Robert Brooks and I'm the
8 Chair of the Innovation and Access Working Group.

9 And thank you for being here and
10 listening to our presentation.

11 We're going to hear from our current
12 two workstreams, 2 and 3, they are focused on access
13 to capital and digital upskilling as they give us
14 updates as to what they've been working on over
15 the last few months since we last met.

16 If the slide presentation can be
17 brought up? And if not, I can bring it up on my
18 slide, so just let me know.

19 In the meantime, I'll go ahead and start
20 the presentation.

21 Oh, thank you, if you can go to the next
22 slide?

1 The Innovation Access Working Group is
2 composed of the following members, myself as Chair,
3 Raul Alarcon, Susan Allen, Matthew Bauer, Carolyn
4 Beasley, Cecelia Gordon, David Honig, Sherman
5 Kizart, Henry Rivera, Steven Roberts, Joycelyn
6 Tate, Barbara Ciara, Susan Corbett, Monica Desai,
7 Charles Harrell, II, C. Hodges, II -- C. Howie
8 Hodges, II, Jennifer J. Jackson, Leticia
9 Latino-Van Splunteren, Eve Lewis, Dr. Jon Gant,
10 Dr. Dianne Lynch, Edgar Class, and Alicia Tambe.

11 Next slide, please? The objectives of
12 our overall working group are the three following
13 topics, recommend solutions to reduce entry
14 barriers and encourage ownership and management
15 of media, digital communications services and
16 next-generation technology properties and
17 start-ups to encourage viewpoint diversity by a
18 broad range of voices, including people of color,
19 women, LGBTQ, and persons of disabilities, among
20 others.

21 Secondly, to study successful
22 approaches to fostering diversity, equity and

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1 non-discrimination in video, media, and technology
2 ownership, management and distribution; to make
3 recommendations on how to accelerate the entry of
4 small businesses, including those owned by women
5 and people of color, into the media, digital news
6 and information, and audio and video programming
7 industries, including as owners, suppliers, and
8 employees.

9 And finally, to examine issues
10 surroundings access to capital, financing, and
11 participation of small, diverse businesses in the
12 media and technology sectors; to evaluate the
13 impact of new technologies, including algorithms
14 on diverse consumers.

15 Next slide? Of the members that you
16 saw listed in the beginning, we were split across
17 three different workstreams.

18 The first workstream completed their
19 report in July of 2022. That consisted of Anna
20 Gomez, Cecelia Gordon, Joycelyn Tate, Charles
21 Harrell, II, Susan Corbett, Monica Desai, Eve
22 Lewis, Dr. Ronald Johnson, and Dan Ball.

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1 With them being completed, our
2 concentration for today is going to be focused all
3 on Workstream 2 and 3.

4 Members from Workstream 1 were
5 transitioned to Workstream 2 and Workstream 3 to
6 continue working with the working group, with the
7 exception, Anna Gomez, who was happy -- privileged
8 to being able to retire. So we are very happy for
9 her.

10 So for Workstream 2, they are focused
11 on access to capital. The lead for Workstream 2
12 was C. Howie Hodges.

13 Members include David Honig, Henry
14 Rivera, Jennifer J. Jackson, Caroline Beasley,
15 Steven Roberts, Barbara Ciara, Raul Alarcon,
16 Cecelia Gordon, Joycelyn Tate, and Charles
17 Harrell, II.

18 Workstream 3 focuses on digital equity
19 and closing the digital skills gap is led by Matthew
20 Bauer.

21 And members include Sherman Kizart,
22 Jennifer J. Jackson, Leticia Latino-Van

1 Splunteren, Dr. Dianne Lynch, Dr. Jon Gant, Susan
2 Corbett, Monica Desai, Alicia Tambe, Eve Lewis,
3 and Edgar Class.

4 Next slide, please? In terms of the
5 concentrations of each of these working groups,
6 Workstream 1, the primary focus was dealing with
7 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for
8 contracting and grant processes to prevent digital
9 discrimination and ensure that all Infrastructure
10 Investment and Jobs Act grantees meet local
11 community needs by recommending a framework for
12 federal and state grant administrators and
13 procurement processes to promote access to
14 opportunities for small and diverse businesses.

15 For Workstream 2, their report for
16 access to capital is going to be focused on
17 recommending initiatives to accelerate the entry
18 and participation of small, minority, and women
19 owned businesses in existing and emerging media
20 and tech markets by identifying successful methods
21 for increasing SMW businesses access to
22 procurement opportunities in media and tech

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1 industries; identifying the business and
2 development training needs and resources for SMW
3 businesses in media and tech industries; and
4 identifying new sources of access to capital
5 including public and private financing, angel
6 investing, joint ventures, foundation financing,
7 and traditional bank financing resources for
8 diverse businesses, particularly those engaged in
9 communications, media, and tech related fields.

10 And Workstream 3, the digital equity,
11 closing -- and focus on closing the digital skills
12 gap is focused on providing recommendations for
13 government investment in and financial support for
14 digital skills training to encourage equitable
15 access for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and
16 all individuals and communities to receive
17 technological skills and learning to participate
18 fully in the U.S. society and economy.

19 With that, we are actually going to go
20 into Workstream 2.

21 Just to give an idea of Workstream 2,
22 they've -- C. Hodges -- C. Howie Hodges is -- was

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1 unable to attend today.

2 And so members of the Workstream,
3 Charles Harrell II and Jennifer J. Jackson, are
4 going to provide the updates for Workstream 2.

5 Charles?

6 MR. HARRELL: Thank you, Robert.

7 As is specifically relates to
8 Workstream Number 2, Access to Capital.

9 We recommend initiatives to accelerate
10 the entry and participation of small, minority,
11 and women owned businesses in existing and emerging
12 media/tech markets by one, identifying successful
13 methods for increasing the SMW businesses access
14 to procurement opportunities in media and tech
15 industries.

16 Two, identify the business development
17 training needs and resources of SMW businesses in
18 media and tech industries.

19 And three, identify new sources of
20 access to capital, including public and private
21 financing, angel investing, joint ventures,
22 foundation financing and traditional bank

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1 financing resources for diverse businesses,
2 particularly those engaged in communications,
3 media, and tech related fields.

4 Our goals, to provide opportunities for
5 conversation, deliberation, and recommendations
6 on how to assist SMW businesses in accessing wider
7 opportunities for access to capital.

8 And to identify best practices for
9 public and private funders and other resources --
10 resource entities to provide support to diverse
11 entrepreneurs.

12 Next slide? Our action items, to
13 conduct research, including collaboration with
14 other CEDC members who may be subject matter
15 experts, on access to capital and supplier
16 diversity.

17 To interview capital market industry
18 experts to compile information on challenges,
19 barriers, as well as opportunities for acquiring
20 equity, angel investments, and other sources of
21 capital for minority entrepreneurs.

22 Our deliverables, to research findings

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1 that identify opportunities and barriers to
2 capital access, and that's ongoing.

3 To compile information from work group
4 interviews with subject matter experts.

5 We have conducted one on one
6 interviews, fourth quarter of fiscal year 2022 and
7 continue through first quarter of fiscal year 2023.

8 We will put forth a white paper report
9 and findings, third quarter fiscal year 2023.

10 Our planned final report delivery date
11 is June 2023.

12 Status updates, research, we have
13 reviewed and analyzed prior capital and financing
14 recommendations from past FCC Federal Diversity
15 Advisory Committees and are discussing these along
16 with new policy recommendations to put forth to
17 the entire committee.

18 The list does not include FAC
19 recommendations that the Commission has adopted
20 or that are otherwise moot or no longer relevant.

21 Our final report framework team is
22 composed of three to four persons from the

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1 Workstream, David Honig, Barbara Ciara, myself,
2 Charles Harrell, II, Jennifer Cole.

3 We will design a framework for the final
4 report as team transitions to working on its
5 primary focus, collecting all materials, research,
6 data, and research collected.

7 Now, I will turn it over to my committee
8 member and distinguished colleague, Jennifer J.
9 Jackson. Thank you.

10 MS. JACKSON: Thanks, Charles.

11 And so some additional updates on our
12 work for access to capital include the following,
13 for the members of Workstream Number 2 have
14 deliberated and identified a list of potential
15 interview guests to discuss current trends in
16 access to capital and financing available for
17 people of color and women to enter into the media
18 business, including opportunities for diverse
19 procurement with the Infrastructure Investment and
20 Jobs Act.

21 The list of experts have been divided
22 into five categories which include academic,

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1 people who study the trends in business formation,
2 expertise in evaluating emerging markets.

3 Entrepreneurs, women and minority
4 business owners who have demonstrated levels of
5 success.

6 People in the area of government which
7 would be agencies that are providing financing,
8 procurement and technical support to DBEs.

9 Venture/Equity investors would be
10 investment companies that are either early, mid,
11 and advance stage equity investors in businesses.

12 And last, but not least, banks offering
13 traditional sources for working capital and debt
14 financing.

15 The interviewers will collect -- the
16 interviewers from our team, from Workstream 2, will
17 be collecting and cataloging best practices,
18 strategies, and advice to present to the full CEDC
19 that will help improve and refine their efforts
20 to direct capital access to small diverse
21 businesses.

22 The interviewers will also provide

1 insight on how the FCC can create and direct more
2 private or federal business and procurement
3 opportunities with the Infrastructure Investments
4 and Jobs Act.

5 The interviews are ongoing and weekly
6 with experts which began in January and we are
7 looking to conclude at the end of March.

8 Next slide? Okay, some of the
9 interviews -- people that we've interviewed who
10 have been confirmed, and some of which have been
11 completed as well.

12 In the category of entrepreneurs, we
13 have Steven Roberts, President of The Roberts
14 Group, I'm sorry, of The Roberts Company.

15 Raul Alarcon, I apologize if I
16 pronounced your last name incorrectly, who is the
17 Chairman and CEO of the Spanish Broadcasting System
18 who provided us with his perspective on debt and/or
19 equity financing.

20 Melody Spann Cooper, Chair/CEO of
21 Midway Broadcasting Corporation who was a second
22 generation owner and she gave us her expertise and

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1 experience on evaluating what your real needs are
2 as an entrepreneur.

3 Sheila Brooks, Founder/CEO of SRB
4 Communications.

5 In the area of academic, we spoke with
6 Mike Johns who is the owner of Digital Mindstate.

7 He shared his expertise and the future of digital
8 media and the intersection of technology and
9 entertainment.

10 We also interviewed Evan Shapiro who
11 is the CEO of Eshap who shared with us something
12 that he's created called the media map which
13 showcases the evolution of media in real time.

14 Additionally, Frederick Wasser,
15 Professor at Brooklyn College.

16 In the area of Government/Policy, we
17 spoke with David Honig, Owner of JulGlo
18 Productions, LLC who spoke highly of the tax
19 credit.

20 We additionally spoke with James
21 Winston, Founder/President of the National
22 Association of Black Owners and Broadcasters.

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1 In Banking/Investors, we spoke with
2 Nicole Elam, President of the National Bankers
3 Association, Daniel Damon, Director of US Bank,
4 and we're schedule to speak with Frederick Royall,
5 Managing Director, Head of Diverse Business of JP
6 Morgan Chase.

7 Next slide? Any questions?

8 And I'll throw it back to Robert.

9 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Jennifer. And
10 Jennifer, if you could stay on, and Charles, if
11 you could bring yourself back on as well?

12 I would like to thank both of you for
13 doing the presentation.

14 And so with that said, just reiterating
15 what Jennifer first stated, but before we go there,
16 I just wanted to note that one thing we've really
17 been focusing on, Howie wanted me to mention, and
18 with Workstream 2 is to try to bring in some
19 additional voices that may not have been heard
20 regularly at this point.

21 And really speaking about things like
22 some about blockchain Web3, a few other

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1 technologies of just innovations, as she
2 mentioned, opportunities that deal with like
3 business development that, you know, are either
4 forthcoming or are currently here and it's just
5 having a rising presence in the industry.

6 So that's what we've really an emphasis
7 of highlighting in our conversation with everyone
8 who has spoke to or will be speaking to the
9 Workstream.

10 So all those who are interviewees who
11 have -- who are here, thank you for doing it and
12 being part of the process.

13 So with that all said, I would like to
14 open it up for questions for Workstream 2.

15 So with that said, I am going to pass
16 it over to Workstream 3's lead, Matthew Bauer.

17 Matthew, feel free to take it from here.

18 Charles and Jennifer, thanks again. You guys can
19 turn off your cameras.

20 MR. BAUER: Thank you, Robert.

21 And if we could bring up the slides for
22 Workstream 2.

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1 But while we're doing that, I'd like
2 to send a big thanks to all of our Workstream 3
3 members for your great work over the past one and
4 a half years. Boy, time is flying for sure.

5 And also, to Jamila Bess Johnson for
6 all of her incredible work with us as well as CEDC
7 Chair Gate and Innovation Access Chair Robert
8 Brooks, back to you, and for all your efforts on
9 our behalf.

10 And so if we can move to the deck, back
11 to the next slide? I'm not seeing it, but we can
12 go on.

13 So basically for Workstream 3, just to
14 review, we are here to provide recommendations for
15 government, investment in and financial support
16 for digital skills training to encourage equitable
17 access for small business, entrepreneurs, and all
18 individuals and communities to receive technology
19 skills and learning to participate fully in the
20 U.S. society and economy.

21 So our goal is to provide information
22 regarding model resources, for training to improve

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1 skills, increase educational employment, and
2 entrepreneurial opportunities and sustainability.

3 So to that end, we have been really in
4 a three-part series. So you're going to hear about
5 the first part which was our symposium and town
6 hall on September 22nd in the past year.

7 And then, bringing that together in a
8 summary draft report.

9 And then, our final deliverable which
10 will be a national upskilling tool kit of sorts.

11 And then, so I'll review quickly the
12 town hall and symposium. And then we'll have some
13 of our Workstream members who participated in this
14 process of the interim draft report comment on some
15 of the highlights from that.

16 And then we have a report from, I guess,
17 the state level with one of our Workstream members,
18 Susan Corbett. And then we'll do a final wrap and
19 Q&A.

20 So moving to the next slide and
21 highlights of our event in September. So we
22 haven't presented since -- to the full CEDC since

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1 July 2022. And we held a symposium and town hall.

2 I think many of you attended some or all of that
3 on the 23rd in September of last year on digital
4 equity and closing the digital skills gap.

5 Aiming to contribute to a diversity,
6 equity framework that could inform the development
7 of a national digital upskilling tool kit or plan.

8 And essentially, we convened across
9 sector group of leaders and experts to share
10 current models, best practices, critical questions
11 about effective inclusive models, digital training
12 and upskilling.

13 And really, one of the first times where
14 all these players, we had 30 speakers. And it was
15 a wonderful afternoon. And they were from
16 federal, state, local governments, corporate,
17 nonprofit, advocacy groups, so many topic areas.

18 You're going to hear a summary from some
19 of my Workstream 3 colleagues.

20 But in the process of taking the
21 transcript, the official transcript which was over
22 220 pages from this event, and what was beautiful

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1 is we really started to get into that cross talk
2 where these leaders were actually discussing
3 different ideas, different best practices, and
4 sort of creating new -- a new paradigm in a way.

5 And so we've taken that 220 pages and
6 distilled it into an interim draft summary report
7 which you're going to be hearing about and our
8 Workstream is highlight today. You should have
9 all received a copy by now.

10 And before I hand over the mic, I'd like
11 to give a special thank you to Dr. Dianne Lynch,
12 Leticia Latino, Alicia Tambe, Susan Corbett, Eve
13 Lewis, Edward Class for your incredible efforts
14 towards creating this draft interim report.

15 And I'd like for Alicia, Susan, Dr.
16 Lynch, Eve, and Leticia, if you could now come on
17 screen? Wonderful, hello, everyone.

18 And I have the pleasure of handing the
19 reigns to Dr. Dianne Lynch. It's safe to say that
20 our interim draft report would not have been
21 possible without her incredible editing and time
22 spent.

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1 Hello, Dr. Lynch.

2 DR. LYNCH: Good morning, good
3 morning, everybody.

4 That's very kind of you, Matt. It's
5 a little bit of an exaggeration, but it was a
6 collective effort to reduce so much rich
7 information down to the summary report that we
8 have. And we're going to hear a lot about this
9 today.

10 But everything that we did here and all
11 of that incredible cross talk and all of those
12 insights will show up in one form or another in
13 our final report, certainly.

14 So, again, as Matt said, we want to
15 thank all of the exceptional professionals who
16 shared their insights and their experiences with
17 us in the September symposium.

18 We had such high hopes for it and they
19 absolutely exceeded them and then some.

20 The report before you really is just
21 an organized capture of many of their ideas and
22 insights. And we hope we structured it to

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1 synthesize their best advice for those across the
2 country who are working so hard to establish and
3 expand productive broadband initiatives.

4 But as the Workstream dedicated to
5 access and innovation, we organized around the idea
6 that access to broadband and digital device is
7 necessary, but insufficient.

8 The end goal here has to be that all
9 individuals are not only wired and connected, but
10 that they have the skills necessary to use that
11 access to participate fully in the digital economy.

12 Our mantra sort of has become that the
13 digital divide is about more than hardware. It's
14 about the digital skills gap that keeps millions
15 from realizing their full potential and the impact
16 of that on our national economy and our shared
17 prosperity.

18 We knew all these folks who are working
19 so hard across the country on these issues and
20 initiatives weren't going to be able to join us
21 to hear this incredible conversation in real time.

22 And we wanted to make sure that we captured it

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1 so that they had access to it, to that kind of
2 collective extraordinary wisdom of the experts we
3 brought together who've been doing this work, some
4 of them for a very long time in multiple
5 intersections across geography, demographics, and
6 mission.

7 So, as Matt said, it was a huge project
8 to just conceptually organize all of that material
9 and all of those insights. But we did so by topic,
10 from federal and state activity to metrics and
11 measurements with their speaker comments organized
12 in each category.

13 From there, a number of us also reached
14 out to some of our speakers for additional
15 follow-up asking them to expand on some of the
16 recommendations and insights.

17 We were so fortunate to have on our
18 Workstream Alicia Tambe from Meta, who provided
19 really valuable insight into the work of one of
20 the country's most influential media companies.

21 And that triggered, actually, an
22 understanding that we should be doing some more

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1 reaching out to some of the other major media
2 companies, corporations in the country.

3 So we have also done that to talk to
4 them about their activities in their own
5 investments.

6 What didn't fit into the main text, as
7 we said, a lot. It's at least partially
8 represented in the appendices which is typical of
9 reports like this one, far exceeds the page count
10 of the actual summary report, but does serve as
11 added documentation of the committee's work.

12 Somebody's got their mic on.

13 As Matt has said, I'll just forge on,
14 as Matt has said, and as you will hear repeatedly
15 today, this document is the foundation up which
16 the Workstream's final report and recommendations
17 will be built.

18 In summary, it is a selective and well
19 informed scan of the ecosystem of engagement and
20 advocacy committed to ensuring that this nation,
21 every demographic, every state, every community
22 is prepared and has the information they need to

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1 realize our shared higher purpose of closing the
2 digital divide.

3 And again, not just by providing
4 broadband and device access to every individual,
5 but by ensuring that they have the skills and the
6 confidence to use them to join and thrive in the
7 digital economy today and tomorrow and in the years
8 to come.

9 I'm very happy now to turn this over
10 to my colleague, Leticia Latino-Van Splunteren to
11 talk about our inspiring keynote address and what's
12 happening at the national level.

13 MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUNTEREN: Thank you,
14 thank you so much, Dianne. And I echo everything
15 that Matt has said and the incredible work this
16 working group has done and I feel honored to be
17 alongside with all of you.

18 So, you know, to summarize a little bit
19 the keynotes of the skills steps symposium and town
20 hall, it was delivered by former Acting Chairwoman
21 Mignon Clyburn. And what an inspiring address it
22 was.

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1 A few of the established common themes
2 that resonated to our entire's day discussion,
3 including the powerful, yet troubling fact that
4 there's a significant number of people being left
5 behind in what she defined, and I love the concept,
6 as analogue islands and how we owe to those that
7 have yet to realize the full digital promise to
8 keep working as hard as we can and meet them where
9 they are.

10 To achieve this, she encouraged
11 everybody to reach into the communities and listen
12 to the experiences of people that lead these
13 connection on a day to day basis.

14 She also reinforced the idea that an
15 interconnected broadband enabled nation is today's
16 most pressing public works project, one that is
17 essential service for all Americans as is water,
18 energy, and the basic telecommunications services.

19 The day then proceeded with
20 highlighting federal national initiatives focused
21 on driving change at the state and community
22 levels. And our Chair, Heather Gate, highlighted

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1 the massive funding and process framed for digital
2 equity, specifically going in a bit more detail
3 around the Broadband Equity Act and Deployment,
4 or B program as it's being dubbed, as well as the
5 \$2.75 billion in the Digital Equity Act, or DEA.

6 Funding on this program is decided for
7 the three different programs to collectively help
8 states develop digital equity plans and advance
9 activities related to digital equity and
10 inclusion, but also work towards development and
11 digital skills training.

12 We then heard from Angela Bennett,
13 Digital Equity and Director of the National
14 Telecommunications and Information
15 Administration, of NTIA, where she highlighted how
16 the agency has a boots on the ground approach in
17 working with states in developing the digital
18 equity plans and emphasizing once again what former
19 Acting Chairwoman Clyburn has said, encouraging
20 of listening and outreach in the communities
21 because they are the ones that know best what is
22 needed.

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1 She then stressed the need to maintain
2 the sense of urgency and issued a call to action
3 to work collaborative while encouraging all
4 stakeholders to capitalize NTIA's webpage as a
5 significant resource to better understand how to
6 engage in the planning and co-deciding of
7 solutions.

8 After that powerful participation, we
9 heard from Angela Siefer, Executive Director of
10 the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. And she
11 addressed the audience and shared how NDIA is a
12 peer to peer network with more than 1,100
13 affiliates dedicated to galvanizing communities
14 of digital inclusion practitioners and giving them
15 a voice at a national level platform.

16 So many already doing the work locally,
17 she enthusiastically shared. And she urges to
18 find them and build community around them because
19 they are the ones that know what efforts have
20 already been built in the community and to help
21 identify what gaps are the ones that need to be
22 filled in.

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1 This segment on federal and national
2 initiative was closed by FCC Wire and Competition
3 Bureau Assistant Deputy Chief Duvall describing
4 the affordable connectivity program which was
5 funded by \$14.2 billion by the Infrastructure and
6 Investment Jobs Act to support low income
7 households by providing them with discounted
8 broadband bills and a one-time device discount.

9 More than 13 million households are
10 currently enrolled in the ACP program.

11 And with that, I will now give the
12 screen to Eve Lewis who will brief us on the state,
13 county, and municipal government and public
14 perspectives that were discussed during the
15 symposium. Thank you.

16 MS. LEWIS: Thank you, Leticia,
17 wonderful summary. Everyone before me,
18 excellent. I'm happy to be here.

19 So as it relates to the state, county,
20 and municipal government perspectives, I'll
21 summarize it as a two, two, one. We had two state
22 leaders, two county leaders, and one municipal

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1 leader.

2 And so you'll see, as I go through each
3 of the summaries, they interact. They cross over
4 one another. It was fascinating to see the
5 interactivity between them.

6 So, first, for purposes of summary, the
7 two state leaders were from Colorado and the State
8 of Mississippi. So we had Katherine Keegan from
9 the State of Colorado. She's in the Office of
10 Future Work.

11 And we also had Sally Doughty from the
12 State of Mississippi. She is the Executive
13 Director for Broadband Expansion and Accessibility
14 Authority. And that actually was recently
15 established in the State of Mississippi, as recent
16 as 2022.

17 And basically, together, they
18 emphasized that their focus is on the state level
19 were deploying digital navigators statewide.

20 And then, through that, they were
21 pooling all of the information that they were
22 gathering on a statewide basis to see the larger

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1 picture and then create solutions.

2 So that was really fascinating to see
3 even at the high level, they were reaching down
4 to the local levels.

5 Next, the two counties that we heard
6 from, they were leaders in their local library
7 systems, one was Allison Grubbs. She's from
8 Broward County Library System. And Broward County
9 is in South Florida.

10 And then, we also heard from Alonzo
11 Mendez. He's in Multnomah County in Portland,
12 Oregon.

13 So you have the two polar sides of our
14 nation, the southeast in Florida, and the northwest
15 in Portland, Oregon.

16 But what was fascinating about their
17 perspectives and how they overlapped was their
18 focus in the program creation for bridging the
19 digital divide and upskilling and finding the ways
20 to meet the individuals where they are.

21 And tailoring each and every program
22 for upskilling to the specific communities that

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1 they were seeking to reach. And finding out what
2 would work best in their unique communities.

3 And both of them echoed that and it was
4 wonderful, the models that they were able to come
5 up with, with mobile labs, and going out and having
6 the teaching sessions, not just in the library
7 setting, but in, you know, the community settings.
8 So that was fascinating.

9 And then, our municipal
10 representative, this was the City of Philadelphia
11 and it was Juliet Fink-Yates. She's the Digital
12 Inclusion Manager of the Office of Innovation and
13 Technology there in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

14 And it was fascinating to hear from her
15 perspective. Her focus was forging community
16 relationships and partnerships really with the
17 community stakeholders so they could be
18 accountable to each other on that local level.

19 And through that, she's been able to
20 create a digital literacy alliance. And she's
21 been able to leverage resources through that
22 alliance and create direct grant opportunities to

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1 service providers and others to expand the work
2 that they're doing at the city level through, you
3 know, all digital equity programming at all
4 varieties.

5 So it was really fascinating to hear
6 that she was getting such great results and
7 everyone was accountable to one another and it was
8 very successful.

9 So I think through this summary, you'll
10 see that the information and solutions are going
11 up the levels of government as well as down the
12 levels of government.

13 And it was really fascinating and
14 impressive to hear how each of them have almost
15 piggybacked or kind of helped and assisted in the
16 overall mission of closing the digital skills gap.

17 So at this point, I'll turn it over to
18 Alicia who is going to talk to you about the
19 community level nonprofits and advocacy groups and
20 others of that kind. Thank you.

21 MS. TAMBE: Thank you so much, Eve.

22 And yes, it was really, really great

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1 to learn more about, you know, what is happening
2 in the community, but also just seeing what's
3 happening at the local and regional levels.

4 So we got to see the importance of
5 community level engagement from a variety of
6 different organizations. And it was really great
7 to compare exactly what they were discussing.

8 So we heard from the National Digital
9 Equity Center in Maine. We heard from Soren
10 Eastern Kentucky, the community tech network in
11 San Francisco, and Austin, the digital bridge in
12 North Carolina and Colorado as well as faith based
13 perspective which was Balm and Glad.

14 So it was really, really interesting
15 to hear from a lot of the amazing leaders because
16 we saw different challenges.

17 There was the challenges of the
18 pandemic which refocused digital inclusion efforts
19 to remote instruction via Zoom.

20 And we saw how this was used to make
21 sure that available resources were used
22 appropriately.

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1 But we also saw how different
2 communities use plans to collaborate with
3 libraries and community organizations to answer
4 that digital gap that was there.

5 But what was interesting is, we saw this
6 from the pandemic where things needed to be
7 digital. And then there was the remote
8 instructors and the importance of libraries and
9 communities.

10 But as we, you know, proceeded in the
11 conversation, we saw how small businesses were
12 helped in certifications and skills were offered
13 for entrepreneurs. And a lot of this happened
14 through collaborations with companies and
15 businesses, some of which are CEDC members.

16 So through listening to these different
17 organizations, we saw exactly some of the
18 challenges that were overcome with similar
19 solutions.

20 But there was also the importance of
21 faith based organizations as a vehicle for digital
22 equity.

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1 I think this is important because it
2 kind of goes into when we heard from some of the
3 advocacy groups, which included the innovative
4 re-entry program, healing communities USA, and
5 tribal communities, and accessibility leaders from
6 disability.

7 Similar to what I had mentioned earlier
8 in terms of the importance of faith and faith based
9 organizations, we saw the intersection of faith
10 and criminal justice for re-entry.

11 Now, when you think of digital skills
12 and digital equity, that might not be the first
13 thought, but we saw the challenges that came up
14 in terms of the innovative re-entry program where
15 you needed to have job readiness for these programs
16 and it required technical skills.

17 And then, we also learned from the
18 challenges faced by tribal communities in the
19 extent that, you know, connectivity is not always
20 present in these areas as well as there needed to
21 be workforce development.

22 So we saw how it was important to

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1 include the workforce there as well as again when
2 we mentioned earlier from the local and state
3 nonprofits, the importance of faith, in this case,
4 for criminal justice re-entry.

5 But we also learned through the
6 important collaborations with the private sector
7 when we were talking about accessibility.

8 Disability end showed that it was
9 really important to work with the accessibility
10 community, but also how to empower the private
11 sector to ensure that these were efforts that were
12 being used.

13 So they have different indexes and
14 different measurements that can help the private
15 sector in the sense of setting how they are reaching
16 the accessibility community and are they truly
17 inclusive.

18 I thought that was very interesting,
19 but it brought us to the foundations and
20 institutions where we saw from the Benton Institute
21 for Broadband and Society as well as the Lumina
22 Foundation that it's so important to use metrics

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1 and assessments.

2 So in these cases, digital equity was
3 shown through using assessments, using indexes to
4 see what are the benchmark levels and what are we
5 using to achieve those?

6 So through these different groups,
7 whether we were looking at the nonprofit, the
8 advocacy groups, as well as these foundations and
9 institutes, it was really, really great to see how
10 exactly you can work together with different
11 communities, as well as use different assessments,
12 even if you're not working with some of these
13 communities.

14 And to see what populations we really
15 need to hone in and focus on in terms of digital
16 equity.

17 A lot more in the report, but you all,
18 I'm sure, will read that.

19 I'm going to turn it back over to you,
20 Matt.

21 MR. BAUER: Thank you, Alicia. Thanks
22 to all my colleagues for your great summaries.

1 As you'll see, as you all see in the
2 report, the interim draft report, you know, we had
3 key takeaways and themes that were running
4 throughout the event, meeting people where they
5 are, collaboration, and partnership.

6 Technology's going to keep changing,
7 rapidly prototyping assessing interventions and
8 metrics, metrics, metrics.

9 So those are highlighted and longer
10 statements about them in the interim report. So
11 please take a look at that.

12 And I'd like to now transition the
13 presentation to Susan Corbett who is Director of
14 the National Digital Equity Center and a member
15 of our Workstream 3. And really helping spirit
16 -- to spearhead the digital equity plan, process
17 and work for the State of Maine, the Northeast and
18 beyond in so many ways.

19 And this state level work's going to
20 be such a key element for us as we go to our final
21 report.

22 So I believe, Susan, you're on the solo

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1 stage now. And if we could bring up her first
2 slide, as well. Susan, please, take it away.

3 MS. CORBETT: I sure will, thanks,
4 Matt. And thanks to all of my colleagues on their
5 fabulous work over the last year or so.

6 My name is Susan Corbett. I am the
7 Executive Director of the National Digital Equity
8 Center. Our home office is in the great state of
9 Maine.

10 I am also the co-chair for the State
11 of Maine Digital Equity Task Force. And I am the
12 consultant for the -- to help regional and tribal
13 partners across the state. There are 13 of them.

14 And they will be creating their own digital equity
15 plans over the next couple of months.

16 I'll just go ahead as you're starting
17 to bring up the slides, Matt, that would be great.

18 We are talking about the Digital Equity
19 Act and the funding that is helping the state create
20 those state digital equity plans.

21 The Digital Equity Act is embedded in
22 the Infrastructure and Jobs Acts bill. It is \$2.75

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1 billion for digital inclusion efforts across the
2 country.

3 Each state -- the funding is broken into
4 three categories, funding for each state to create
5 a digital equity plan, funding to execute that
6 digital equity plan for each state, and then,
7 running alongside the capacity grant program will
8 be the competitive grant program.

9 So organizations like the National
10 Digital Equity Center, other digital inclusion
11 programs across the country, libraries, adult
12 education, other nonprofits can apply for funding,
13 hopefully, to run alongside that state capacity
14 grant.

15 Next slide, please? The State of
16 Maine, as I mentioned, approached -- their approach
17 to creating the digital equity plan was to divide
18 it into -- the state into 13 regional and tribal
19 regions.

20 Other states may be approaching it a
21 little bit different. We really wanted to focus
22 on the regional level to be sure we were hearing

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1 all voices.

2 The plan -- one of the highlights of
3 the plan is to focus on the covered populations
4 throughout the country. The covered populations
5 include low income individuals, older adult, and
6 aging individuals, incarcerated, formerly
7 incarcerated, individuals with language barriers
8 including individuals that are English language
9 learners or have low levels of literacy,
10 individuals with disabilities, individuals who are
11 members of a racial or ethnic group minority,
12 Veterans, individuals who primarily reside in a
13 rural area.

14 In the State of Maine, 89 percent of
15 our population fall under one of these covered
16 populations.

17 And next slide, please? The work of
18 the regional and tribal broadband partners is to
19 identify the barriers to digital inclusion.

20 What is the availability for broadband?

21 Is connectivity an issue?

22 We have many areas across our state that

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1 there is no broadband available.

2 Is the broadband affordable? Is the
3 ability to pay an issue?

4 Is there a lack of access for affordable
5 devices?

6 Is there a need for digital skills
7 training? And can our resident have -- find access
8 to it? Is it available on a local level?

9 Are there public -- is there public
10 computer access? Are there places with devices
11 and internet connectivity that people can go to
12 if they don't have a device or they don't have an
13 internet connection at home?

14 Is technical support available? And
15 is it affordable?

16 And so each region in our state is going
17 to identify those barriers to digital inclusion.

18 They are also going to identify the
19 assets. What is available? Are there places
20 where people can go to take those classes? Are
21 there programs where devices might be available?

22 The state contracted with the

1 University of Maine to do an asset inventory across
2 the state and to identify all of the assets that
3 are available. But the regional and tribal
4 partners are also looking at assets that area
5 available in their region that the university may
6 not have discovered in their broad reach across
7 the state.

8 Next slide, please? The regional and
9 tribal partners are also looking at industry
10 sectors, as is the State of Maine across the whole
11 state.

12 And it is -- what we're looking at is
13 how is digital inclusion barriers affect the rural
14 healthcare and telehealth work?

15 So a good example of that is an
16 individual and they want to participate in a
17 telehealth visit. Maybe they don't have a
18 broadband connection. Maybe they don't have a
19 device. Maybe they don't have the skills to know
20 how to participate in that telehealth visit.

21 And so each of the regional and tribal
22 partners will also focus on industry sectors and

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1 how it relates to digital inclusion barriers as
2 well as assets.

3 And we're going to go to the next slide.

4 In the end, there's a lot of work that needs to
5 be done and a lot of moving parts and pieces to
6 create a state digital equity plan.

7 At the end of all of the work that's
8 being done on a regional level, the state will then
9 combine all 13 of those plans as well as the work
10 that the state has be doing and create that digital
11 equity plan.

12 It really boils down to some really just
13 this one slide. What are the barriers that we've
14 identified for digital inclusion in the State of
15 Maine?

16 What assets have been identified?

17 How are we going to fix it? And how
18 much will it cost?

19 Each region will submit a budget to
20 execute their digital equity plan when the state
21 receives funding for the state capacity grant.

22 We are looking at creating all those

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1 budgets on a regional level which will then be
2 rolled up into that state budget.

3 And we can go to the next slide. So
4 how do you get involved? It takes lots of hands,
5 helping hands to make this happen. We see this
6 on our -- in the group that we're in today. Lots
7 of moving parts, lots of information that's needed.

8 You can join a statewide team. There
9 may be local coalitions that you can join. Reach
10 out to libraries, adult education programs, older
11 adult organization, as well as any of the covered
12 population programs and volunteer to help.
13 Because together, we can close that digital divide.

14 Thanks, Matt.

15 MR. BAUER: Thanks so much, Susan, and
16 that -- you gave an hour long presentation in about
17 five minutes. So thanks for doing that.

18 And as a resident of the great State
19 of Colorado, I can echo, you know, a similar
20 processes going on here. So many different
21 things, digital equity working group, digital
22 equity committee, asset mapping, and diving deep

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1 into the covered areas.

2 And so, and this process is going on
3 in some shape or form in all 50 states. And that's
4 a real big focus for us.

5 So in terms of next steps and, you know,
6 we're very excited about the coming months as we're
7 going to be distilling all this information. But
8 also taking advantage of this moment where all the
9 50 states are diving deep into this process.

10 And this is a once in lifetime
11 opportunity for us to put forward, you know, a
12 compendium of information that's going to be
13 helpful as those states drive towards their goals
14 which is getting the digital equity plans presented
15 back to the NTIA by the November time line.

16 And Susan, you mentioned the other day,
17 you're process is greatly accelerated ahead of
18 that.

19 So without further ado, I'd like to
20 invite Eve and Leticia, Alicia, Dianne back on
21 screen with us and hand it back to you, Robert,
22 for any Q&A.

1 I know we only have a few minutes, but
2 thanks everyone for an excellent presentation.

3 MR. BROOKS: All right, thank you,
4 Matt. And thank you everybody on Workstream 3 who
5 worked -- who presented today and as well as
6 everybody Workstream 3 as a whole. It was
7 definitely excellent information.

8 To reiterate what Matthew stated, just
9 opening up the floor for questions from anyone.

10 CHAIR GATE: Hey Robert, first I'd like
11 to thank you all for this great work. I'm really
12 going to be tracking your path and it's -- you all
13 have gone above and beyond. This is very
14 impressive and very detailed work that you've done.

15 I did want to point out the fact that
16 the town hall and the symposium was strategically
17 timed to take place when the digital equity
18 planning grants were about to be announced.

19 And so positioning it as a way to really
20 begin the conversation even before the state
21 offices had been fully structured, as you
22 mentioned. The one in Mississippi had just been

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1 formed in 2022.

2 So, and so, I think your final
3 recommendations as well will be timely in June as
4 Susan in Maine and the other digital equity state
5 representatives across the country will be
6 arriving.

7 And so I really appreciate the
8 timeliness, the good work, the diligence that
9 you've put into it, and bringing together the right
10 stakeholders to have this discussion.

11 So my question for you is, since we
12 timed the -- a lot happened since the -- we did
13 the symposium and town hall meetings. And you all
14 mentioned having follow-up discussions.

15 Were there any developments in that
16 time since so much had happened that you all can
17 speak to that sort of evolved from your initial
18 conversations with some of the same people or were
19 you sort of, you know, getting additional
20 information that you hadn't captured in the
21 symposium? Is there anything of interest of note
22 that we need to be aware of that happened since

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1 September?

2 MR. BAUER: I have one quick comment
3 and folks here have been talking to, you know, some
4 of the follow on interviews.

5 But I think the transition from, you
6 know, for so long talking about it, talking about
7 it, talking about it to now, you know, talking to
8 state leaders like Susan, like Katherine Keegan
9 who was part of our panel on the symposium.

10 You know, the difference between, okay,
11 now, we actually have to do this thing, you know,
12 and all the work that's going into it in every
13 single state.

14 I mean, the reality of this is really
15 quite daunting but beautiful at the same time.

16 So just kind of reflecting on that, you
17 know, moving into production as opposed to talking
18 about it. I think it's a big difference and
19 there's so much great work going on across the
20 country right now.

21 But I know other folks have had some
22 great follow on conversations, too.

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1 DR. LYNCH: So I actually -- I did have
2 a couple of follow-up conversations. And one of
3 the things that struck me about those is the stress
4 on the importance of structuring these initiatives
5 and these projects from the beginning to
6 incorporate and build metrics and measurements
7 into them so that there is a tracking and a very
8 intentional process of ensuring the collection of
9 data, what works and what doesn't, not just for
10 the iterations of the programs at the local, state,
11 and national level, but also because the funding
12 isn't forever.

13 And one of the things that we talked
14 about a lot is the technology's never going to stop
15 changing. And so we're building frameworks and
16 we're building foundations and structures within
17 which communities, institutions, the country, the
18 nation will need to continue to build forward.

19 And the way to do that in terms of that
20 transition from this extraordinary once in a
21 lifetime funding which, wouldn't it be great if
22 it just never ended? But is to transition from

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1 that into foundation and other kinds of funding.

2 And they're going to require and expect
3 that kind of data and that kind of measurement and
4 metrics, proof of project, proof of outcomes.

5 While I know we all recognize an
6 importance -- appreciate the importance of that
7 process, it was sort of top of mind in a way that
8 I think may not have emerged quite so clearly in
9 the original conversation, but does seem to be
10 critically important for every single entity and
11 organization that's working on these projects.

12 MS. CORBETT: And Dianne, I'll just add
13 on to that, so one of the things that we talk about
14 at the regional and tribal level for their digital
15 equity and digital inclusion plans is that it is
16 a living document. It is always going to be
17 updated.

18 There's always going to be new assets
19 available or new barriers that come up.

20 And so when these plans are created,
21 it is something that you're going to be referring
22 to on that regional level over and over again,

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1 improving on it, finding the funding, and really
2 continuing to execute that plan for many years to
3 come.

4 MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUNTEREN: And may I
5 add one last thought on that being, you know, our
6 contractors for deploying 5G all over, I feel the
7 interconnectedness of the messaging that we're
8 trying to put out where all stakeholders are really
9 coming to the table.

10 And more and more you see, I just fresh
11 from the Nate Conference which is an infrastructure
12 conference. But the first time we start releasing
13 an emphasis on the B program, on the workforce
14 development, on equity and inclusion.

15 Their subjects were -- are a part of
16 that. And really, I think that they reach out to
17 the right players, the people that have the
18 knowledge and who are trying to pass on this
19 information.

20 For the first time, I do feel a flow
21 of information going across the entire ecosystem.

22 So that's kind of my observation.

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1 CHAIR GATE: Well, thank you.

2 And, Robert, I would like to recognize
3 Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee, she's got her hand raised
4 up. Nicol?

5 DR. TURNER-LEE: Hi, everybody.

6 Well, first and foremost, thank you to
7 the group for this wonderful presentation
8 workshop. You know, you're hitting it right on
9 the head with regards to the timing of the work
10 as well as the imperatives that we need to put into
11 place.

12 My question is, as you're doing this
13 work, what I think would be helpful from the group,
14 and I'm not sure if you've done this yet or you
15 plan to do this, is to give us some top line
16 thematics. Right?

17 I'm a researcher, so sort of think about
18 all the examples you just shared and what are some
19 of the top line opportunities? What are those
20 three to five things that we need to be paying
21 attention to?

22 Because right now, with the

1 infrastructure funding, I do believe, and Susan
2 probably can attest to this, there are a lot of
3 states feel like they're at an old country buffet.

4 This is a lot of choices of things that they can
5 do.

6 And I think it would be helpful because
7 of the council of this group to sort of top line
8 opportunities barriers.

9 And then, I think what's also important
10 in listening to your presentations this morning
11 is where are those areas where we need some cultural
12 sensitivities? Right?

13 Where are the areas where we might need
14 to be much more in tuned to what the community looks
15 like? What their needs are?

16 I find in my work when I'm doing digital
17 divide steps that we throw out the big bullets,
18 but then, we sort of, again, treat it like an old
19 country buffet, nothing wrong with that, I'm not
20 making an endorsement or I'm not saying anything
21 about that.

22 We don't have like the main entrees,

1 you know, and then what the wrap around concerns
2 should be. Spicy, mild, you know, in terms of how
3 we actually look at our communities and what we
4 really need.

5 So, again, I would just put that out
6 there as a potential. I'm not sure if you gathered
7 that, so that's really my question. And if it's
8 a useful exercise to undertake as we start to firm
9 up your report.

10 But really top lining it might be
11 helpful. And maybe if you can, you know, advise
12 for us one of the major top lines that you're seeing
13 across communities and what are the major barriers,
14 if you have the time in your presentation, you
15 probably don't, but you know, just wanted to see
16 people's response to doing something like that.

17 Matthew, I'll put it to you.

18 MR. BAUER: Yes, all right, I will --
19 I always try not to jump in first. But thank you,
20 Dr. Turner-Lee, always love your questions and
21 comments and analogies.

22 So, as now I'm starting to think about

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1 lunch with the old country buffet.

2 And I think one thing I can personally,
3 you know, provide as an example is through our work
4 here, the Colorado digital working group, is one
5 thing we saw fairly quickly after our first few
6 meetings is, there's so many organizations in the
7 state, and you can probably just take this to every
8 state.

9 And Susan will, I'm sure, have some
10 comment on this, too.

11 Is what we don't want to do is replicate
12 over and over and over again, you know, this money
13 seems like a lot, but it could go away very quickly
14 and that we need to find sort of common wheels that
15 we can feed off of so organizations can plug into
16 it as opposed to the libraries, you know, Denver
17 library system has to invent a learning management
18 system and so does the one here in Greene County.

19 And so where can we find those
20 opportunities for efficiency that allow
21 organizations to do it once, do it well, and then
22 really focus on what they do best which is

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1 connecting with their community members,
2 delivering the core services.

3 So I think that sort of gets to that
4 meeting people where they are and giving the
5 ability to do that.

6 And so that's something that's come up
7 very quickly. And what are those areas that we
8 can create a common wheel as opposed to replicating
9 it over and over.

10 But I'm sure Susan and others have
11 comments in there, too.

12 MS. CORBETT: Yes, Matt.

13 So there are, you know, Maine is a very
14 rural state. And so there are resources that are
15 available in some communities that are not
16 available in others.

17 And so the state is also looking at
18 working groups to address sort of the statewide
19 solutions so that, you know --

20 You know, a good example of this, and
21 I talked with a group this week -- our team this
22 week about it, is the prison system in the State

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1 of Maine. There are county jails.

2 And some county jails allow the adult
3 education programs to go in and there are devices
4 available and they teach digital skills. And
5 other jails, it's not an option.

6 And so the state will look at creating
7 a plan that is equitable resources across all jails
8 across the State of Maine.

9 And so that doesn't leave it to the
10 local community to figure out the solution. The
11 state will take it from that higher level.

12 So you see a lot of that work going on.

13 But at the same time, recognizing that there are
14 local barriers and resources that need to be
15 addressed.

16 DR. LYNCH: But sometimes the broadest
17 statements that almost, to some extent, can sound
18 like a cliché, are the most profound and the most
19 challenging.

20 And we heard over and over and over that
21 the challenge and the success is going to look like
22 meeting people where they are.

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1 And when you get to a system of this
2 scale and size, and every state, as we've talked
3 about, is in such a different place. And some,
4 like, thank you to Susan, Maine and Colorado, are
5 really accelerated and they are in a place where
6 they've done a lot of the ground work already.

7 And so they're at a place where they
8 can start to identify those communities, like the
9 prison system, where those disparities are very
10 clear.

11 And then, you have states that are not
12 anywhere close to that. And as time gets short,
13 and it will, the challenge is going to be not just
14 picking the sort of the top line, easy to identify
15 programs or easy to identify challenges, but
16 really, literally getting out into those
17 communities and meeting people where they are.

18 And I think, at least I took away, but
19 I think I speak for my colleagues, that we took
20 away this sort of deepened understanding that that
21 is the challenge. That it is the challenge to not
22 assume, to not helicopter in, as Dr. Gant said so

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1 brilliantly, and take over a community's
2 identification of needs, but to sit and to stop
3 and to listen.

4 And if there's one thing that I believe,
5 and I think we've learned, is going to determine
6 the longstanding impact of this, it's the degree
7 to which we actually do that work.

8 But it's a challenge.

9 DR. TURNER-LEE: If I can, I'll just
10 -- one little addendum to this, and thank you for
11 entertaining my comment. I found out from Robert
12 that it was long enough to be your last question.
13 I apologize.

14 But what I would just actually just
15 offer to all of you as you continue this work, one,
16 you're right, we have this really incongruent
17 landscape. But we do have some of the same
18 institutions that exist across the country,
19 whether it's the correctional institution, a
20 school, a library, a church.

21 And I think we're going to hear from
22 the other groups how they're sort of mobilizing

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1 those institutions.

2 But think through that, because I do
3 find that with these states, that there is sort
4 of this assumption that these institutions don't
5 play a vital role.

6 So I think your work is particularly
7 important because some of them are sort of
8 prioritizing which institution they want to work
9 with.

10 But secondly, what I would suggest,
11 too, is as you're thinking then about what
12 institutions exist and where there are catalysts
13 for partnerships, also implore yourselves to push
14 further for those communities that don't have those
15 resources. There's a reason they don't. Right?

16 And I spent a lot of time in Chicago
17 as an organizer with asset based institute where
18 we found out that just because organizations were
19 not listed didn't mean that they didn't exist.

20 And so I think, you know, again, as you
21 write this report, sort of encourage states to go
22 deeper under the envelope and define us who are

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1 on this committee, because we're not often showing
2 up, you know, in our formal institutions. We're
3 often, you know, grandmother that's actually
4 organizing a CTC on her own with her own money out
5 of her church.

6 And so, again, as you're having those
7 conversations, you know, we just want you to
8 continue to keep that open because the states
9 definitely need that counsel and advice during this
10 very short time period.

11 So thank you again, and sorry to take
12 up so much time as well.

13 MR. BAUER: All good, thank you.

14 MR. BROOKS: All right, thank you, Ms.
15 Gate, and thank you, Dr. Turner-Lee.

16 And so thank you again, Workstream 3
17 and also Workstream 2.

18 This will conclude the working group's
19 presentation. I do want to make sure we thank the
20 FCC, the FDOs, particularly Jamila Bess Johnson,
21 she's helped immensely in everything that we've
22 been doing along with the rest of the CEDC chairs,

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1 my fellow working group chairs as well.

2 And thank you for you members who have
3 taken time out from their work with their
4 respective working groups to provide us with, you
5 know, interviews or just information as well. So
6 thank you for that, too.

7 And most importantly, also to thank you
8 to everyone who's a member of our working group
9 for your contributions, our supporters, and anyone
10 that may not have been mentioned as well. So I
11 do apologize for that, but thank you for
12 everything.

13 All right, and Ms. Gate, getting back
14 to you.

15 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Robert.

16 And once again, thank you to the entire
17 working group and all the Workstream leads for this
18 fantastic work. And we look forward to your
19 recommendations in June.

20 So with that said, we are going to go
21 ahead and take a break. And we will reconvene at
22 12:20 Eastern.

1 At that point, we will do another roll
2 call and then we will move to the Diversity and
3 Equity Working Group's presentation.

4 I appreciate it all and thank you. And
5 I will see you at 12:20 on the dot.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 11:41 a.m. and resumed at
8 12:20 p.m.)

9 CHAIR GATES: Welcome back to the
10 February 23rd meeting of the CEDC Working Group
11 Council.

12 We are in the process of hearing from
13 our working groups as they provide us updates on
14 what they've been working on and what we can look
15 forward to making recommendations to the FCC in
16 June 2023.

17 And before we went to lunch, we heard
18 from the Innovation and Access Working Group. And
19 now we -- I am going to hand the floor over to the
20 Diversity and Equity Working Group that is chaired
21 by Chris Woods. So, Chris Woods, please take the
22 floor for your update.

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1 MR. WOOD: Absolutely.

2 Madam Chairwoman, do we need to do roll
3 call? I just want to make sure.

4 CHAIR GATE: Oh, yes, I did skip roll
5 call. I do this after lunch. It's that lunch.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, thank you,
7 Chris, thank you, Heather.

8 CHAIR GATE: Thanks, Chris.

9 Jamila, I welcome you back for a roll
10 call before we proceed.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, all right, thank
12 you, Chair Gate.

13 All right, I'm going to zip roll call
14 here.

15 All right, calling the roll for the
16 February 23, 2023 meeting of the CEDC.

17 Chair Heather Gate?

18 CHAIR GATE: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Vice Chair Dr. Nicol
20 Turner-Lee?

21 DR. TURNER-LEE: Present, and just --
22 I see a double image, Jamila Bess. So I'm not sure.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, and my screen's --
2 not sure if people are seeing it.

3 Yes, that may be something that Jeff
4 and team can assist us with. I see that also, Dr.
5 Turner-Lee.

6 Okay, continuing with the roll.

7 Vice Chair Susan Allen?

8 MS. ALLEN: Here.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

10 DEI Working Group Chair, Dr. Dominique
11 Harrison?

12 Clayton Banks?

13 MR. BANKS: Okay.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Robert -- okay, thank
15 you.

16 Robert Branson?

17 MR. BRANSON: Present, it was hard
18 getting back inside, though, with the temperature
19 today.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you for your
21 sacrifice.

22 Yvette Badu-Nimako? I apologize for

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1 my pronunciation of your last name.

2 Michele Cober?

3 MS. COBER: Present.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Sarah Kate Ellis?

5 Rebecca Gibbons?

6 MS. GIBBONS: Present.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Chris James?

8 MR. JAMES: Present.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Broderick Johnson or
10 Antonio Williams?

11 Nicolaine Lazarre?

12 MS. LAZARRE: Present.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Louis Peraertz?

14 MR. PERAERTZ: Present.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Vickie Robinson?

16 Matthew Wood?

17 Anisa Green?

18 MS. GREEN: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Hooman Hedayati?

20 MR. HEDAYATI: Present.

21 MS. JOHNSON: John C. Yang?

22 Dr. Christopher Ali?

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1 Dr. Jon Gant?
2 Robert Brooks?
3 MR. BROOKS: Present.
4 MS. JOHNSON: Raul Alarcon?
5 Matthew Bauer?
6 MR. BAUER: Present.
7 MS. JOHNSON: Caroline Beasley?
8 Edgar Class?
9 Cecelia Gordon?
10 David Honig?
11 Sherman Kizart?
12 MR. KIZART: Present.
13 MS. JOHNSON: Steven Roberts?
14 MR. ROBERTS: Still awake, here.
15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.
16 Joycelyn Tate?
17 Barbara Ciara?
18 Susan Corbett?
19 MS. CORBETT: Present.
20 MS. JOHNSON: Monica Desai or Alicia
21 Tambe?
22 MS. TAMBE: Present.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Charles Harrell?
2 MR. HARRELL: Present.
3 MS. JOHNSON: C. Howie Hodges?
4 Jennifer Jackson?
5 Leticia Latino-van Splunteren?
6 MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUNTEREN: Present.
7 MS. JOHNSON: Eve Lewis?
8 MS. LEWIS: Present.
9 MS. JOHNSON: Dr. Dianne Lynch?
10 DR. LYNCH: Present.
11 MS. JOHNSON: Diversity and Equity
12 Working Group Chair, Christopher Wood?
13 MR. WOOD: Present.
14 MS. JOHNSON: Melody Spann Cooper?
15 Graham Skip Dillard?
16 MR. DILLARD: Present.
17 MS. JOHNSON: Jill Hart?
18 Dr. Ronald Johnson?
19 DR. JOHNSON: Present.
20 MS. JOHNSON: Good to have you, Dr.
21 Johnson.
22 DR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Rosa Mendoza?
2 MS. MENDOZA: Here.
3 MS. JOHNSON: Aama Nahuja?
4 Brian Scarpelli?
5 MR. SCARPELLI: Hello, I'm here.
6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.
7 Charlyn Stanberry?
8 MS. STANBERRY: Present.
9 MS. JOHNSON: Antonio Tijerino?
10 James Winston?
11 MR. WINSTON: Present.
12 MS. JOHNSON: Jenna Alsayegh?
13 MS. ALSAYEGH: Present.
14 MS. JOHNSON: Faith Bautista?
15 MS. BAUTISTA: Present.
16 MS. JOHNSON: Brigitte Daniel-Corbin?
17 MS. DANIEL-CORBIN: Present.
18 MS. JOHNSON: Otto Padron?
19 Randy Parker?
20 Ellen Schned?
21 Dr. Kathy Schubert?
22 And Mona Thompson?

1 Thank you, everyone. That completes
2 the roll call. Madam Chair, you have a quorum of
3 members.

4 MS. TATE: Hello, Joycelyn Tate is
5 present, Jamila.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

7 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Jamila.

8 And now, we can proceed with the
9 Diversity and Equity Working Group's update.

10 So I welcome Chris Wood again to return.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. WOOD: Hello, and thank you.
13 Thank you so much to our Designated Federal
14 Officers, the FCC, Chairwoman Rosenworcel, as well
15 as our Chair Heather Gate, and our co-chairs, Susan
16 Allen and Nicol Turner-Lee.

17 We're very excited to provide an update
18 and I know that the group has been working extremely
19 hard to pull together one symposium that has
20 already passed which was amazing and I'm looking
21 forward to Melody Spann Cooper providing an update
22 on that as well as the planning for our next forum

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1 which will be on March 6.

2 Do we have slides, just to make sure
3 that I'm on track?

4 MS. JOHNSON: We have slides, Chris,
5 there's a little team's delay loading them. We'll
6 give you --

7 MR. WOOD: All right, and that is a
8 slight delay, but I think we can start on slide
9 2, maybe, perfect, all right.

10 So first and foremost, thank you so
11 much. I want to thank very much for all of our
12 working group members of which are listed here,
13 but I will take a moment to go through them.

14 Aama Nahuja, Antonio Tijerino, Brian
15 Scarpelli, Skip Dillard, James Winston, Jill
16 Houghton, Melody Spann Cooper, Rosa Mendoza, Dr.
17 Ronald Johnson, Charlyn Stanberry, Cathy Schubert,
18 Ellen Schned, Faith Bautista, Jenna Alsayegh, I
19 always mess that up, sorry, Mona Thompson, Otto
20 Padron, and Randy Parker.

21 And our group presented last time and
22 really presented our Workstream 1 work and

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1 presented that to the FCC. And I know that that
2 has played a crucial role in informing the FCC.

3 So those members that have provided information
4 and were able to work on Workstream 1 but then have
5 also stepped in to work on Workstreams 2, 3 and
6 4. I greatly appreciate your efforts and your
7 continued work through the entire charter.

8 Next slide, please? The first one I'd
9 like to try to talk about is Workstreams 2 and 3.

10 Workstreams 2 and 3 are actually
11 combining their efforts to make sure that we can
12 have a very fulfilling and very thoughtful event.

13 We found that some of the digital
14 upskilling as well as the nontraditional anchor
15 institutions information was crossing over.

16 So in our efforts to ensure that we are
17 providing as much information to the public as
18 possible as well as the FCC, as well as doing as
19 much exploratory across the nation from leading
20 experts, we wanted to make sure to combine the
21 efforts.

22 And I will say thank you to the

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1 Workstream members for working diligently to pull
2 that together as well as working across Workstreams
3 from different areas and bringing together their
4 expertise and inviting leaders from around the
5 country to begin participating in our forum on
6 March 6.

7 I would like to recognize the efforts
8 put forward by the co-leads of Workstreams 2 and
9 3, Antonio Tijerino, Rosa Mendoza, Aama Nahuja,
10 and Charlyn Stanberry.

11 They have been absolutely great in
12 pulling this together.

13 With that, I'm going to go ahead and
14 move on to the next slide and give you a brief
15 overview on what to expect for the symposium coming
16 up.

17 So the overarching theme of this
18 symposium is really to ensure that we are thinking
19 about technology as it has transformed almost every
20 aspect of our daily lives, from the way that we've
21 learned, communicate, the way that we work.

22 And I really wanted to ensure, and us

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1 as a group, really wanted to make sure that we were
2 thinking about this holistically, recognizing that
3 across the country, there are so many individuals,
4 so many organizations, community leaders,
5 nontraditional anchor institutions, as well as
6 just leaders in the community who may have an
7 organization but may be very involved in their
8 community who are literally pulling themselves up
9 by their boot straps, finding ways to create
10 digital opportunities for individuals, ensuring
11 that people can get access to upskilling and
12 understand, you know, potentially into new fields,
13 understanding new technologies.

14 And we, as a group, really wanted to
15 reach out and think outside the box to find, not
16 necessarily organizations and leaders who may
17 already have federal funding, may have state
18 funding, but really hear from those individuals
19 who were looking to or have been producing things
20 without those resources.

21 As we all know, for many of my
22 colleagues here, but as well as so many that work

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1 in this space, we know that there's a lot of
2 individuals across the country, a lot of leaders
3 across the country that find creative ways to go
4 ahead and bring programming to our youth, to our
5 adults, to seniors in our community, regardless
6 of their geographic location.

7 And the stories as well as the programs
8 that they've built are incredible.

9 And so I'm going to go through a couple
10 portions of what to expect on March 6th. And then,
11 I'll turn it over to my colleague, Charlyn
12 Stanberry, to talk about nontraditional anchor
13 institutions.

14 First and foremost, what to expect for
15 that is we're going to be looking at the future
16 of work and we're looking across and inviting
17 experts from across the government to -- that are
18 in different spaces and have different backgrounds
19 to bring and talk about the current landscape of
20 the future of work and the impacts that that has
21 on underserved communities.

22 We're excited that we're going to

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1 bringing together individuals who are from
2 different organizations, both national
3 organizations, but national organizations that are
4 also working in local communities and ensuring that
5 we are bringing and lifting up the voice of those
6 who are doing this work in these areas.

7 We're also going to be bringing
8 together companies that are working in these
9 communities either by funding different
10 initiatives in these areas that are not necessarily
11 federal, state grants, but may be private grants
12 in an effort to up skill workers and really reach
13 into communities where they may not have
14 traditionally been reaching into.

15 So we're excited to invite the
16 companies to talk about their initiatives, how
17 they've been really reaching different populations
18 and ensuring that those who may not necessarily
19 have been reached historically have the
20 opportunity to engage and reach -- be reached and
21 be -- have the opportunity to up skill in the
22 future, currently and in the future.

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1 We'll also look at how these public and
2 private sector synergies are working to employ the
3 workers of tomorrow or up skill the workers of
4 tomorrow and ensure that they're able to keep up
5 with the every-changing technology landscape.

6 And so we're excited to bring together
7 government officials from various states around
8 the country both representing urban and rural areas
9 as well as tribal to ensure that we're thinking
10 about and talking about the important voices that
11 may not necessarily -- that may have historically
12 been overlooked.

13 And make sure that we're thinking about
14 it from -- through a geographic lens, which I know
15 has been heavy and heavily talked about as we've
16 been talking about EPB and ACP and as we've been
17 talking about ensuring that individuals have
18 access to digital connectivity.

19 And then, when they have that
20 connectivity, how are local agencies, local
21 institutions, local organizations working in
22 partnership and in tandem to ensure that they're

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1 reaching a diverse community and providing
2 opportunities to those who historically have not
3 had the opportunity.

4 With that, the other piece that we're
5 going to be working on or be talking about is
6 actually bringing together a host of
7 nontraditional anchor institutions, including
8 bringing a professor who has extensively
9 researched in this area working heavily in HBCUs,
10 but also really looking at it from a corporate
11 perspective and ensuring that there is that reach.

12 And so really making sure that we're
13 bringing together the full perspective, both the
14 historical perspective with research, and as I
15 mentioned before, bringing together the companies,
16 the local leaders that are doing this work. And
17 we're really excited about that conversation.

18 And that will lead into our
19 nontraditional anchor institutions. And this is
20 an area that I know I am personally excited about.

21 From my work as the Executive Director
22 of LGBT Tech, we really try to look at our network

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1 of potential centers and potential community
2 centers and find places that may not necessarily
3 have access to digital technology in the way that
4 -- whether because their grants don't allow it or
5 their funding doesn't allow it, but really looking
6 at these nontraditional anchor institutions which
7 can span from churches to community centers to,
8 you know, coffee shops that have a computer in the
9 corner, and everything in between.

10 But I believe on this journey, we've
11 also had the opportunity to speak to some amazing
12 people.

13 I don't want to dive too far into that
14 because I want to turn it over to Charlyn Stanberry.

15 So I'll invite Charlyn to come on and just give
16 a brief overview of what we're looking to bring
17 to the table on March 6th with the nontraditional
18 anchor institutions and just give us a preview of
19 what to expect that day. Charlyn?

20 MS. STANBERRY: Thank you so much,
21 Chris. As everybody knows, Chris is an amazing
22 leader.

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1 So just want to talk a little bit about
2 the role of nontraditional anchor institutions.

3 That's something that we are going to be diving
4 into during this symposium.

5 So part of it, what we're going to do
6 is we're going to have fireside chat with Dr. Jon
7 P. Gant. So Dr. Gant is actually the dean and
8 professor at North Carolina Central University
9 School of Library and Information Sciences.

10 And for anyone that knows, NCCU for
11 short, is an HBCU.

12 So during the fireside chat that's
13 going to be led by my colleague, Melody Spann
14 Cooper, Dr. Gant is going to kind of talk about
15 the methods that he has used for achieving support
16 for training and for different programs that
17 facilitate internet, digital, broadband skills,
18 and how is he prepping the workforce of the future
19 in regards to the students that he has at NCCU and
20 the community that they have in that area.

21 You know, what are some of the ways that
22 he's using government grants or government

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1 assistance and private entities to touch about
2 digital training, to touch about, you know,
3 diversifying the workforce and the different
4 opportunities that are there?

5 He's going to specifically dive into
6 the NTIA grant that they have used. And also talk
7 about the fact that NCCU is one of the first HBCUs
8 in North Carolina that was selected for the Amazon
9 Career Choice Program.

10 So he's going to give us, you know, a
11 history about the things that he's done. And we
12 can kind of hear more of the best practices aspect
13 when it comes to nontraditional anchor
14 institutions.

15 So we're looking forward to that.

16 The other thing I want to kind of dive
17 into which is the other part of the program that
18 we're going to talk about is how are nontraditional
19 anchor institutions accelerating Digital Adoption
20 and upskilling?

21 And so we're actually going to have a
22 panel. And during that panel, we're going to have,

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1 as Chris mentioned, people and representatives
2 from different organizations to talk about some
3 of their best practices that they have employed
4 at their local institution that creates like a
5 successful model for communities outside of that
6 area to up skill.

7 And also we're going to talk to them
8 -- they're going to talk about the training that
9 they have used to target different populations,
10 whether those populations are currently in junior
11 high school, whether they're in college, whether
12 their institution has some type of crisis
13 intervention when it comes to training.

14 And also just give us a little bit of
15 detail about how do they maximize partnership with
16 state and federal institutions and how do they
17 utilize their different resources?

18 So one thing that Aama Nahuja, who has
19 been a wonderful lead with our Workstream, wanted
20 us to kind of do is look at this from the aspect
21 of different organizations and that serve
22 different populations that are in different areas.

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1 The moderator of that panel is going
2 to be my colleague, Cathy Schubert.

3 And there are a couple of organizations
4 that we have tapped into for that panel. We have
5 one called Diversify Architecture. And that's
6 going to be a very unique one to talk about the
7 role of diversifying the architecture space. How
8 do they use communications and technology?

9 We're going to hear from people from
10 the Hurston Institute for Learning and
11 Development.

12 We're going to hear from someone from
13 CenterLink which is a community center for LGBTQ
14 centers.

15 And also, we may hear from some of our
16 own partners in the CEDC.

17 So as far as summing it up, we have a
18 lot to look forward to to kind of discuss the best
19 practices and the models that are out there in
20 regards to nontraditional anchor institutions
21 being able to up skill and being able to have a
22 workforce and be included in that workforce

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1 development and seeing how the FCC plays a part
2 into that.

3 So I'm going to give it back to you,
4 Chris.

5 MR. WOOD: Thank you so much, that was
6 a very thorough overview.

7 And I know it just barely touches the
8 amazing conversations that we've been able to have
9 with some of these groups and the information that
10 they're going to bring.

11 So I won't spoil it. You'll have to
12 join us on March 6 at 12:00 noon and it'll go until
13 about 4:00 or 4:30.

14 This is a virtual event, so regardless
15 of where you are, you'll be able to attend and join
16 us live.

17 Next slide, please? And our next
18 Workstream, Workstream 4 did an incredible job.

19 I don't know, those of you that were able to join,
20 most recently held an all-day event around minority
21 meeting communications tech ownership and
22 development.

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1 And for those of you that were able to
2 attend, you know how spectacular the day was.

3 But I think for me, as a working group
4 chair, and working with these amazing leaders,
5 co-leads Ellen Schned, Skip Dillard, and Melody
6 Spann Cooper, as well as the other working group
7 members, Charlyn Stanberry, James Winston, Otto
8 Padron, and Faith Bautista.

9 Their commitment to this space is so
10 incredible. The conversations that were had
11 before this and the thought that went into the forum
12 held a couple weeks ago was incredible.

13 And so I do just want to publically
14 thank all of the working group members and the
15 co-leads for putting together a spectacular event
16 that was in person and virtual hybrid held a couple
17 weeks ago.

18 I will say it is, also having been
19 appointed to this committee for several terms, it
20 was also a very proud moment as I was getting text
21 messages as well as emails about the event and how
22 much individuals got out of it.

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1 And so I just want to start by saying
2 congratulations to such a successful event and
3 thank you so much to all of you for your hard work.

4 With that, I'm going to turn it over
5 to Melody Spann Cooper to give you an overview of
6 the day.

7 MS. COOPER: Thank you so much,
8 everybody. And, Chris, thank you so much. We
9 could not have done this without you.

10 I am Melody Spann Cooper, co-chair of
11 Workstream 4. And on behalf of the entire
12 Workstream, we'd like to take this opportunity to
13 thank Chairwoman Rosenworcel for this opportunity.

14 Our Workstream co-led by Ellen Schned
15 and Skip Dillard, myself, have spent the last nine
16 months examining how to expand digital and media
17 ownership opportunities for women and minorities.

18 We had passionate discussions
19 regarding the hurdles of entry into our industry.

20 And we had passionate guests who participated in
21 our forum on February 7th.

22 And Workstream 4, we delved into an

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1 exclusive club of diverse media owners and
2 executives who long to expand our membership.

3 The FCC has been challenged by this.

4 Of course, we know this for decades.

5 In 1977, the agency convened a meeting
6 to tackle the lack of minority ownership. It is
7 safe to say it has improved since then, but not
8 nearly enough.

9 We were honored to be joined by
10 Commissioner Starks on February 7th in our forum
11 who shared the following numbers.

12 There are less than 2,000 full powered
13 TV stations in America. Only 5 percent are owned
14 by women, 3 percent -- no, I'm sorry, 5 percent
15 are owned by women, 3 percent owned by Blacks, 1
16 percent owned by Asian, 4 percent owned by Latino.

17 In radio of more than 10,000 stations,
18 9 percent are owned by women, 2 percent by Blacks,
19 1 percent by Asian, 5 percent by Latinos.

20 Commissioner Starks suggested that we
21 no longer look at the industry in a linear way and
22 that cable and streaming are opening doors for new

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1 on boards, providing more equity in ownership.

2 We know this firsthand in our own
3 Workstreams. Faith Bautista launched the first
4 ever Asian owned, woman owned, English language,
5 Asian-American and Pacific Island cable channel,
6 Chime TV earlier this year.

7 We heard from leading researchers,
8 including Maria Brennan, CEO of the WE Network who
9 shared that, while women are making strides in
10 middle and senior management, the statistics for
11 women owners, c-suites, and board members in media
12 is still woefully low.

13 And we heard from Horowitz Research
14 about the significant shifts viewing habits to
15 streaming services as well as the increased metrics
16 in viewing both for -- viewing and spending power
17 of diverse communities, including Black, Hispanic,
18 Asians, and other cultures.

19 Our Workstream 4 set out to explore the
20 latest trends and challenges impacting increased
21 diverse participation in both tech and broadcast.

22 We settled three pillars by which to

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1 capture current sentiment and make recommendations
2 on how to increase participation both at the
3 ownership and the practitionership level.

4 Then we listened and enlisted some of
5 the country's leading experts and thought leaders
6 who shared their experiences and best practices.

7 Our first pillar we tackled was the
8 competitive hurdles and opportunities in the
9 current media landscape.

10 Our amazing panel moderated by Michelle
11 Duke, head of diversity at the National Association
12 of Broadcasters.

13 And our panelists included broadcast
14 luminaries, including DuJuan McCoy, our own Otto
15 Padron, Alfred Liggins, Patricia Boyers, Chelsea
16 Mattox Dorsey, and our own Faith Bautista.

17 Here are some of the key takeaways.
18 They talked about deal flow and how important it
19 is to increasing acquisition opportunities,
20 knowing the right people, and having the
21 opportunity to be in the pipeline so when the deal
22 gets presented, you are at the table.

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1 They talked about the competitive
2 challenge and the big media companies on their own
3 accord are generally adverse to doing business with
4 smaller companies because they lack skill and have
5 a minor impact on their bottom line.

6 This is a major barrier to diverse
7 owners who cannot effectively compete.

8 Therefore, our Workstream is exploring
9 how the FCC could step in to help level the playing
10 field.

11 In the tech industry, including virtual
12 MVPDs and streaming companies, they have no
13 comparable regulation to date. And they are the
14 new monopoly.

15 While broadcasters and cable are
16 dealing with outdated regulation.

17 It also acknowledged that big tech has
18 lanes cleared to get into American households and
19 broadcast lacks that advantage.

20 We talked about minority owned
21 broadcasters, big or small, not receiving parity
22 and advertising dollars.

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1 We talked about how the FCC should
2 develop a think tank that would create a strategy
3 and action plan that will lead to increased
4 minority ownership participation.

5 The FCC has all the information, but
6 has been slow to act.

7 The panelist suggested rather than
8 passing the baton to Congress for policies not
9 technically in their purview, that the FCC, as the
10 expert agency overseeing and enforcing the media
11 industry, should work in tandem with Congress in
12 an advisory capacity if it finds inequities.

13 And then, we talked about diverse
14 owners offer many advantages with a broader
15 perspective and an opportunity to affect real
16 change using their authentic voice to make a
17 difference in their respective communities.

18 Panelists agreed that they were not
19 looking for handouts, just a level playing field
20 or parity.

21 And we talked about a few regulatory
22 hurdles came up in a very heated debate. There

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1 was robust discussion on both sides of retrans
2 consent, plus supplier diversity came up
3 repeatedly which, in many instances, is favoring
4 the meta media companies rather than minority
5 companies that they were intended to benefit.

6 With the vast changes in the media
7 landscape since 1992, the divisiveness over
8 whether these policies are really hitting the mark
9 came up.

10 And our second pillar of the day, our
11 Workstream's co-chair, Skip Dillard, lead the
12 discussion on the importance of growing the next
13 generation of diverse media owners.

14 We recognized early on in our process
15 that an industry pipeline approach to ownership
16 would provide a solid pool of perspective owners.

17 In order to meet that objective, in
18 addition to adding more diversity and ownership,
19 there needed to be more diversity in the c-suites.

20 This issue addressed by one of our researchers
21 who spoke on the gender gap in broadcasting and
22 how, while the industry remains male dominated,

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1 women in executive roles has increased with the
2 exception of board appointments where women have
3 suffered attrition since 2019.

4 I'll now turn it over to my co-chair,
5 Skip Dillard, to share his process in developing
6 the discussion. Skip?

7 MR. DILLARD: Thank you, thank you so
8 much, Melody.

9 And we had, you know, such a spirited
10 and lively conversation in talking to owners in
11 preparation as well as executives for our
12 symposium.

13 You know, one key point kept coming
14 across, and it was that we need more in the next
15 generation of owners really, truly prepared to own
16 media and emerging technologies.

17 Many found their way into ownership,
18 had either very little knowledge of the industry
19 and suffered and had to go through quite a few
20 roadblocks when they got in.

21 And others who definitely should have
22 got in felt there was not enough preparation and

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1 opportunity to learn the business. And therefore,
2 decided to forego an opportunity to what would --
3 could have been a great ownership opportunity and
4 really wonderful chance to serve our communities.

5 Quite a few takeaways from our panel.

6 Number one, the gaming industry is often ignored,
7 but a great source for expanding minority
8 participation.

9 There are too few, if any, Black
10 executives or owners in gaming. Eighty-three
11 percent of African-Americans are reached by
12 gaming, yet only 4 percent are part of the creative
13 technologies in the field.

14 Student interest in programs can create
15 change in the gaming industry. Targeting
16 historically Black colleges and universities and
17 others can give young minorities a true lead into
18 lucrative careers.

19 And this is an area that we had not
20 thought about, but the panelist who comes from the
21 gaming industry gave us great insight there.

22 Education is the biggest takeaway in

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1 preparing the next generation of all media owners.

2 Mentors are crucial, but also having a sponsor
3 that really, truly advocates for you when you're
4 not in the room and also can find access to capital
5 is crucial.

6 The broadcast leadership training
7 program which is sponsored by the National
8 Association of Broadcasters Educational
9 Foundation, we have found to be a wonderful program
10 for industry on boards.

11 Fifty-nine percent of people who have
12 gone through the program have become owners. And
13 63 percent, including myself, hold executive level
14 positions across the country.

15 We also found that you have to know your
16 audience before you develop content. The most
17 important thing you can do to build a loyal audience
18 is to study what is needed in each individual
19 community.

20 The minority tax certificate which has
21 been championed by the National Association of
22 Black Owned Broadcasters has worked and is

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1 discussed as a true, great opportunity that went
2 away around early 1990, 1991. It helped many
3 owners, especially first time owners, acquire
4 media properties. It's something that definitely
5 we would encourage the FCC to review.

6 Also, other tax incentives could be
7 looked at as well, including draft legislation of
8 U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke which provides
9 cable companies with tax incentives to launch
10 minority or independent cable channels.

11 Also, with the minority tax
12 certificate, it was only centered on minorities,
13 women were not included.

14 So we believe that a minority tax
15 certificate that does include women could be very
16 important as we go forward to improving diversity
17 in media ownership.

18 Women in technology are not supported
19 enough, as we said, and have little voice in the
20 industry which is reflected in the low number of
21 women technologists.

22 Again, we have to start early with high

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1 school and college prompting more women.

2 And also, no good, bad time to buy or
3 sell, even in a kind of post-COVID environment,
4 it's just about the right deal for you and why it's
5 right.

6 Not everyone wants to be an
7 entrepreneur. They can also be intrepeneur,
8 working inside a company which can also be very
9 gratifying as you help to grow a brand and grow
10 yours simultaneously.

11 At this point, for the final panel, I
12 would love to turn it over to our co-lead, Ellen
13 Schned, who gave us an incredible time just two
14 weeks ago.

15 Thank you, Ellen.

16 MS. SCHNED: Thank you, Skip.

17 And congratulations on moderating an
18 incredible panel. Congratulations to all of our
19 guests, our panelists. They really were
20 exceptional.

21 And I think I just want to echo the fact
22 that being in the room, as they say in the play,

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1 Hamilton, you've got to be in the room to have a
2 voice.

3 And we had a lot of really good voices
4 represented.

5 And I also want to just mention that
6 there were these two young girls who were two FCC
7 second year attorneys. And I went up and said
8 hello to them during the break. And I think
9 they're in the wireline department.

10 And they, I think, gave us -- they gave
11 me the best compliment of the day which is they
12 said, wow, this feels so real. This feels like
13 the real world. These are issues that, you know,
14 we're really feeling are happening in the real
15 world.

16 And what you guys are talking about and
17 the solutions you're proposing seem very relevant.

18 And that is really the goal of our
19 symposium and the CEDC.

20 So I'm going to wrap this up by just
21 giving you a brief overview of our third panel which
22 was called Show Me the Money, access to capital,

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1 because capital drives ownership and success in
2 media. It really comes down to the money.

3 And we were blessed to have broadcast
4 veteran and leader, Caroline Beasley, moderate the
5 panel. And she, you know, she's just so respected
6 in our industry.

7 And she led a panel of really, really
8 talented money experts on a lot of levels.

9 We were fortunate to have Rejon Thomas
10 Ferdinand with Publicis Media, which is one of the
11 most renowned ad agencies worldwide.

12 And Rejon is really leading an effort
13 within Publicis to set a precedent within the
14 advertising industry to have money -- significant
15 amounts of dollars earmarked for diverse content,
16 both minority owned networks as well as minority
17 oriented networks.

18 So we want to thank Rejon for
19 participating. We want to continue to dialogue
20 with her and all the ad industries -- all the ad
21 agencies in the industry.

22 We also had an incredible panelist by

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1 the name of Stephanie Valencia who talked about
2 some venture capital funds that are available for
3 the Hispanic community.

4 And she really is a mentor and leader
5 to help Hispanic entrepreneurs get access to
6 startup funds.

7 Similarly, Niles Stewart with
8 Lendistry, who many of us knew because they were
9 leaders in providing money and loans and grants
10 during the pandemic, is really a leader in creating
11 opportunities for minority businesses, startups,
12 rounds, As, Bs, and Cs.

13 And you know, it's lenders like Niles
14 at Lendistry that really are so critical for
15 startup minority networks because it's a Catch-22.

16 You have to have scale or show up half to scale
17 to be able to get money. But when you're first
18 starting out, you don't have that scale yet. You
19 don't have the numbers to show.

20 So he was terrific in walking us through
21 that.

22 Diana Ding was our fourth panelist.

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1 And she runs a streaming channel in Silicon Valley
2 featuring the tech industry.

3 And she pointed out how important it
4 is to have relationships with your local community.

5 In her case, the tech industry.

6 But many of our communities, those are
7 our audience. So that's where we have to stick,
8 we have to stick to the knitting and understand
9 who our audience is.

10 And she also underscored, as did Faith
11 Bautista, how the Asian community, which Dianne's
12 network features as well as Faith's, is one of the
13 most educated with one of the most -- with strong
14 buying power. And they're in the distant third
15 when it comes to both investor dollar access as
16 well as advertising dollars. And that really
17 needs to be remedied.

18 So the takeaway from panel three was
19 just really that there is money out there. It's
20 not easy to come by in today's environment, but
21 there are resources like our panelists and their
22 companies and others.

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1 And but, I think, you know, in closing,
2 that panel, I think I want to harken back to a point
3 that Melody made which is supplier diversity came
4 up a lot, a provision that creates opportunities
5 for minorities because larger companies have to
6 commit to hiring a certain amount of diverse
7 suppliers.

8 So the question came up, should we
9 impose supplier diversity requirements to also the
10 advertising industry? That might be a way to
11 create some consistency and greater assurity that
12 there will be some dollars earmarked because there
13 will also be incentives on the other side for the
14 ad agencies if they do so.

15 And these are the sort of things that
16 the government would have to step in and look at,
17 whether it's the FCC, Congress, administration,
18 or SBA. You can't just leave it chance, it's too
19 important.

20 And access to capital in today's
21 environment where the biggest companies are really
22 getting the biggest chunks of money, it's becoming

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1 an avalanche where the smallest companies are
2 really competing against the biggest and there's
3 an imbalance.

4 So in closing, we had an incredible
5 closing presenter in Roland Martin, who many of
6 you know. He's been on TV 1. He's been on Urban
7 1. He's really a brand unto himself.

8 He started off just as a broadcaster
9 and now, he's got a million followers himself under
10 his own brand. And he has a podcast.

11 And, you know, he was just so empowering
12 and inspiring in his remarks. And he just doesn't
13 take no for an answer.

14 And, you know, a lot of times, we have
15 to be our own chairman of our boards and that's
16 what Roland Martin is. And he really ended the
17 day on a strong note.

18 And so, with that, you know, I'm just
19 going to close and on behalf of myself, Skip,
20 Charlyn, Otto, Faith, and Melody, we want to thank
21 Heather, Chris, and the FCC team, our FCC leads,
22 Jamila, Kayla, Diana Coho, for your guidance and

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1 due diligence.

2 And to all the panelists, thank you for
3 your time and your brain trust. We hope you have
4 enjoyed -- we hope you enjoyed the forum and it
5 was really the floor, not the ceiling. Now, we
6 have another few months to put our proposals on
7 paper and delivery them to the FCC.

8 And we look forward to your input and
9 further comradery with this CEDC to do so.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. WOOD: Thank you so much, Ellen,
12 Skip, and Melody.

13 I think you can hear for yourself that
14 this was an incredible day bringing together
15 experts from all over the field. And really, what
16 -- when we started this initiative, what feels like
17 yesterday but was almost 20 months ago, we really
18 wanted to make sure that we were looking at and
19 pursuing areas or individuals, leaders in the
20 space, that may not necessarily have had the
21 opportunity to speak on this platform and really
22 provide information to -- at a federal level to

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1 the FCC and to those who are paying attention.

2 So I want to underscore and thank
3 Workstream 4 for your hard work and your
4 dedication. I know we still have a lot of work
5 to do because the event was just step one.

6 And now, we have the amazing task of
7 pulling this all together and putting together the
8 recommendations for the FCC which my working groups
9 both, once they complete their events and we are
10 into the writing phase look forward to presenting
11 to you all in June.

12 Thank you all so much for the overview
13 and I will open the floor to questions from the
14 rest of the CEDC.

15 MS. ALLEN: Hi, this is Susan Allen.
16 Can you all hear me?

17 MR. WOOD: Yes.

18 MS. ALLEN: Thank you very much.

19 I was at the February 7th symposium,
20 so I could add some more perspective to it.

21 Indeed, like my opening remarks, this
22 minority and women ownership in media is such a

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1 difficult place for the underserved community to
2 have a true voice in the marketplace.

3 I cannot help but talk about Diana Ding.

4 She flew all the way from California, Silicon
5 Valley, and of course, her intention was not to
6 speak at the Show Me the Money panel. However,
7 she got there and she found herself in a small
8 little David in the world of Goliath.

9 Roland Martin who was a closing speaker
10 and Commissioner Sparks talked about 4 percent
11 African-American, 1 percent Asian-American, 1
12 percent Hispanic-American in television, and then
13 the rest in radio.

14 It's pathetic. When the minority
15 population getting to be the majority. Okay?
16 Soon, the minority and diverse community will be
17 majority. It's pathetic.

18 And yet, this media, this is the voice
19 of the country, the voice of America. It does not
20 include the diversity.

21 And I am sitting here representing the
22 fastest growing minority group in the country.

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1 Making a major contribution while still treated
2 as foreigners.

3 And we do not have a voice. And Diana
4 Ding says that I have to go and raise money for
5 my own people, the industrialists in Silicon Valley
6 to pay me so that I can stay around for 15 years.

7 She's the single lone voice that day.

8 Single lone voice up there and she put her own
9 money out. Her husband paid for it and she was
10 successful. She was able to get Silicon Valley
11 folks to pay for her existence.

12 We need to change. And when we bring
13 the voice like the Asian-American, please pay
14 attention. It is institutionalized and it is a
15 big mountain for them to climb. And it's just this
16 systematic.

17 So I want to say that, when we are here
18 talking about making sure that this marketplace
19 is equally shared by all Americans, we need to look
20 at all Americans.

21 And what we did on this February 7th
22 is just the beginning. And I hope that all of us

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1 will pay more attention.

2 I was so happy to see the large company
3 from Europe is cornering the market here in
4 America, spending money. And they have the old
5 diversity program. But I didn't see any
6 Asian-Americans there. I did not see it.

7 If I did not bring Diana Ding in, there
8 was no small voice. I hope this will put in the
9 conscious of the FCC.

10 I'm glad to see the Hispanics are doing
11 well, but no Asians. And I want to take this
12 opportunity to talk about that.

13 MS. SCHNED: Susan, I have a question.

14 MS. ALLEN: It's the topic that's
15 nearest to my heart.

16 MS. SCHNED: I have a question for you.

17 MS. ALLEN: Yes?

18 MS. SCHNED: Susan, you made a
19 statement at our event, which I loved. I think
20 you made it during the second panel, but you
21 mentioned, you know, that the CARES Act, and what
22 we're doing here within, you know, preventing

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1 digital discrimination and all the trillions of
2 dollars that are going toward the CARES Act to build
3 out rural broadband and to make sure that there's
4 not digital discrimination with respect to
5 apportionment of that money, a lot of that money
6 is going to operators, to distributors who are
7 actually building, you know, the broadband
8 pipeline.

9 But you mentioned that there may be some
10 money for us to explore in the information flow
11 within the digital pipeline.

12 Can you elaborate on that a little bit
13 and whether you think that we can explore some CARES
14 Act opportunity to create some funding for content
15 companies as well as broadcast or cable companies
16 -- cable programmers?

17 MS. ALLEN: Yes, Ellen.

18 I was surprised that many of the -- in
19 the audience or the speakers didn't know about
20 that. Forty point two-five billion dollars were
21 reserved or earmarked for outreach to make sure
22 that the underserved community, which is

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1 African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Native
2 American, women, rural, Veterans, LGBT communities
3 will be taken care of.

4 And but, so few of those, the folks in
5 these communities know about it. Nobody tell them
6 about it, they have no idea where to go to get
7 information. Therefore, I said that day that the
8 money -- there's money for education and
9 dissemination and donate.

10 And here, we're talking about media.

11 We're talking about media, it's dissemination of
12 information not just entertainment, not just
13 stories and shows, but information dissemination.

14 So therefore we should be coming
15 together with a united voice and include the
16 communities that are not included, that have not
17 been educated, that are not being a recipient of
18 information.

19 They come in and join the town hall
20 meeting, go to your mayor's office, go to the city
21 council, go to your governor and say, where are
22 we in this food chain? When are you going to come

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1 and give us money for our schools, for our library,
2 and the local community, the nonprofit
3 organizations so we can actually talk to our
4 neighbors and say, come into my community and tell
5 us what we can do to participate in this big feast
6 of the \$42.25 billion that's intended for us.

7 And I think the large companies who were
8 at the February 7th panel should be participating
9 in that.

10 I love entertainment. I love movies.

11 I love music. But we are talking about the future
12 of the country. We're talking about the one-third
13 of Americans who do not -- who are not -- do not
14 have the foundation of knowledge to use the digital
15 economy.

16 MR. WOOD: Thank you, Susan.

17 MS. SCHNED: You're an incredibly
18 passionate, valuable person, not only on the CEDC,
19 Susan, but just in the community, for the Asian
20 community, for the minority community.

21 I personally want to thank you for that
22 passion. Every time -- this is my first term on

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1 the CEDC and you are great.

2 And I just want to also add that we did
3 have Faith Bautista who did form the first
4 Asian-American woman owned channel as well on the
5 panel. She was actually remote because she was
6 in the Philippines.

7 But we hear you loud and clear that we
8 have to combine the small voices with the big.
9 And you are one of our heroes and we want you to
10 -- I would like us to follow up with you on that
11 -- on the \$42 trillion CARES Act --

12 MS. ALLEN: Billion.

13 MS. SCHNED: -- provision to create --
14 and create a coalition. So we'll follow up.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. ALLEN: I like the Asians to have
17 a seat at that table, at the big table, on the big
18 feast. And I'd like to have companies who have
19 already have that status. And that's just that
20 money to include the Asians there. And I would
21 like to be at that table with my -- the folks who
22 have been left out.

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1 MR. WOOD: Thank you so much, Susan.

2 And having worked on the diversity
3 committee for several appointments with you, I
4 definitely always appreciate your input and your
5 commitment to your community, as I know many of
6 us are committed to our communities.

7 So it is always a pleasure to work with
8 you on these and ensure that there is
9 representation equally for all marginalized
10 communities, but especially in your case, Asian.

11 So thank you so much for your notes.

12 Any other questions, comments from the
13 rest of the group?

14 CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much,
15 Chris.

16 A couple of brief comments for going
17 back to Workstream 2 and 3 as they plan their event.

18 I hope everybody had a save the date
19 on their calendars for March 6th when that event
20 is going to happen.

21 I just wanted to emphasize the
22 importance of that discussion in terms of, you

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1 know, bringing nontraditional community anchor
2 institutions into this platform.

3 A lot of nontraditional anchor
4 institutions become that because of necessity in
5 their communities because they wake up and realize
6 that something's missing, whether it is a place
7 of worship or whether it is a person, a volunteer
8 at home who realizes the need in our communities.

9 So bringing them on this platform is highly
10 important.

11 I wanted to point out also with the
12 IIJA, there is also opportunities for funding that
13 may be coming, not only through the digital equity
14 plans.

15 If those non-anchor institutions
16 voices are heard so that money is actually
17 considered that will flow to them.

18 But a second opportunity is the digital
19 equity competitive grant program, which is \$1.25
20 billion that will go directly to anchor
21 institutions and other organizations that will be
22 coming in the future.

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1 So having some kind of discussion to
2 set them up for success and the ability to apply
3 for those type grant opportunities will be a good
4 discussion point as well.

5 And then, Susan and the Workstream on
6 access to capital, fantastic event. Fantastic
7 job. I'm looking forward to you all distilling
8 all your findings in the next few weeks and making
9 recommendations.

10 And do not -- feel free to use your time
11 to follow up, have follow-up conversations.
12 Because there was a lot of interesting discussions
13 that took place and did not, you know, there were
14 opportunities for us to learn more.

15 So if you need to take advantage of the
16 opportunity to interview some of the speakers and
17 panelists so you can really solidify some of those
18 talking points, I urge you to use your time for
19 that in the next few months.

20 And Nicol?

21 DR. TURNER-LEE: Yes, I'll be very
22 quick because I know we're short of time.

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1 So once again, I want to also commend
2 this working group for the diligence and the work
3 shop as well as the compelling argument that's been
4 put forth.

5 But I do want to go back to Melody's
6 comment, though. You know, the recent FCC media
7 ownership report does depict some very devastating
8 and deplorable numbers when it comes to media
9 ownership, particularly for people of color, to
10 Susan's point.

11 But also for Black Americans who've
12 been in this game for a long time, too. We are
13 still basically at the same number.

14 And the reason I bring that up is, I
15 was previously asked a couple weeks ago whether
16 or not this committee still cares about the
17 traditional media? And we do.

18 So I think it's really clear that, you
19 know, there are these sub-grants that can go to
20 different organizations to help them articulate
21 their voice. But we need media ownership by people
22 of color because we've got to do a couple of things.

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1 We've got to rectify misinformation and
2 disinformation by validated sources.

3 And the second thing that we have to
4 do is ensure that the buys that are pushing some
5 of the outreach like the Affordable Connectivity
6 Program and other programs are going to minority
7 suppliers.

8 We should not be resting on the laurels
9 of mainstream media to get the message out about
10 some of the programs that we're talking about in
11 other work groups.

12 So I wanted to bring that up because,
13 you know, the passion on this committee is real.

14 And there's a real big problem. Some of the
15 recent statistics that just came out in that report
16 that we have to, as a committee, continue to talk
17 about.

18 And I commend this group for ensuring
19 that we stay very true to our roots because our
20 voices matter. And it's really important for us
21 to actually rectify some of those statistics after
22 all these years.

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1 So, again, I wanted to make sure,
2 Heather, that was pointed out. We're not always
3 on the receiving end in the passive role in this
4 economy. We can produce. We can actually be the
5 vendors for media buys and we need to continue to
6 push on the production side that we have as much
7 value.

8 That's it.

9 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Dr.
10 Turner-Lee.

11 MR. WOOD: Thank you all so much.
12 Thank you all for the opportunity to present my
13 working groups very hard work to you all.

14 And with that, I will turn it back over
15 to our chairwoman, Heather Gate.

16 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, thank you,
17 Chris. Fantastic job, and fantastic presentation
18 from the Diversity and Equity Working Group.

19 And now I am going to welcome the
20 chairwoman of the Digital Equity and Inclusion
21 Working Group, the fantastic Dr. Dominique
22 Harrison.

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1 I apologize for stealing one minute of
2 your time, but I know that you'll forgive me.

3 So, Dominique, if you're able to turn
4 your camera on, please feel free to begin the update
5 of your working group. Dominique?

6 Jeff, did we lose Dominique?

7 Hello, Jamila, am I still on?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, I hear you and see
9 you.

10 CHAIR GATE: Okay, I thought maybe --

11 MS. JOHNSON: And my note is that Dr.
12 Dominique Harrison is not connected at the moment.
13 And so let's see if she comes.

14 CHAIR GATE: If she's not able to join,
15 could we move into the workstream presentations?

16 MS. JOHNSON: I don't see why not.

17 If Dr. Ali and Chris James are
18 available, I think they're first in the order on
19 the agenda.

20 CHAIR GATE: Thank you.

21 Thank you, Dr. Ali, and welcome.

22 DR. ALI: Thank you, and great to be

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1 here with everybody and great to learn about the
2 amazing work that other workstreams and working
3 groups are doing. It's great that we're all
4 working towards the same goal.

5 I am not sure -- I think we need to
6 advance a couple of slides, if that's all right.

7 A little more, there we go, all right.

8 Okay, so Chris James and myself as
9 co-directing this Workstream 2 which is around
10 listening sessions on lessons learned.

11 I'm just going to read right from this
12 slide here, but this Workstream will include
13 soliciting information from key stakeholders
14 across ISPs, federal agencies with emergency
15 broadband funding, state agencies, and community
16 organizations to understand and identify lessons
17 learned from programs that provided broadband
18 connectivity to opportunity communities during the
19 pandemic.

20 Next slide, please? Great, so we took
21 it as our charge then that we know during the
22 pandemic that several federal agencies, state

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1 agencies, counties, municipalities, private
2 organizations, and community and nonprofit groups
3 developed emergency broadband programs as a result
4 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 But we also recognized that we lacked
6 substantive and systematic data about the types,
7 experiences, successes, and challenges of these
8 programs.

9 So that's where we -- really where we
10 took our mandate from. And we began by
11 brainstorming different stakeholders that we would
12 want to address.

13 And these included federal agencies,
14 state agencies, counties and municipalities,
15 private companies, community institutions and
16 organizations, nonprofits. And then, we
17 subdivided them to really cast a very wide net on
18 the types of folks that we wanted to speak with
19 and hear from and learn from.

20 And one of the things that we also did
21 is, we decided that one on one interviews were going
22 to be the best way for us to kind of tease out this

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1 information.

2 Next slide, please? Thank you very
3 much.

4 So we developed five major, I guess,
5 recent questions. I'm an academic, I like to work
6 in research questions.

7 So we wanted to ask what programs were
8 created during the pandemic to fund broadband
9 deployment and affordability?

10 How did these programs work?

11 What emergency broadband funding
12 responses worked well?

13 What responses could be changed and/or
14 adopted more broadly moving forward?

15 And to what extent were these efforts
16 successful in connecting opportunity communities
17 to broadband?

18 And from there, we developed ten
19 interview questions that we're changing slightly,
20 depending on the respondent.

21 Next slide, please? So, so far, we
22 have conducted 13 fantastic interviews. They have

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1 lasted anywhere between half an hour and sometimes
2 almost an hour.

3 We've spoken with local officials,
4 consumer interest groups and group
5 representatives, federal departments and
6 agencies, industry associations, tribal
7 communities, and providers, other providers, local
8 providers, and county representatives. So these
9 are the ones that we have conducted thus far.

10 Next slide, please? There are three
11 groups or stakeholders that we are still hoping
12 to hear from. The goal is to wrap up all of our
13 interviews by the end of March. We've also begun
14 outlining our report to the FCC.

15 So we very much are reaching out to the
16 disability community, to the telehealth community,
17 and also to the FCC. And when it comes to
18 telehealth and the FCC, we are particularly keen
19 on speaking with folks about the telehealth
20 programming that was put in place during the
21 pandemic.

22 Next slide, please? In terms of

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1 lessons learned, so one of the things that we
2 started to do is now that we've gone, you know,
3 kind of a critical mass of interviews and notes,
4 is trying to really pull out some of the lessons
5 learned and early findings and early themes from
6 our respondents.

7 One of the things we heard, and I think,
8 actually, the first bullet point and the second
9 bullet point really speak to each other is the need
10 to meet consumers where they are. But sometimes,
11 the frustration with the lack of resources that
12 means that they can't, you know, a provider for
13 instances, or a community group, can't reach those
14 communities.

15 And this is particularly true, we heard
16 this echoed twice in regards to tribal communities,
17 tribal provides, and tribal nations where the need
18 to serve consumers is there and the need to
19 understand that to go out and find these consumers
20 is there, but there's a lack of resources to make
21 this happen.

22 So we seem to have a tension maybe

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1 between the desirability of meeting communities
2 and a lack of resources.

3 We learned a lot about the importance
4 of public/private partnerships, both between ISPs
5 and communities, but also between other community
6 organizations. So that has become particularly
7 important as well.

8 I think every respondent, regardless
9 of where they were speaking from, talked to us about
10 the need for affordability and the need to keep
11 prices down for opportunity communities,
12 especially low income communities.

13 We have -- we heard about the need to
14 make ACP easier to apply for from the consumer side.

15 We've heard about the need to make ACP
16 communication efforts better both from the FCC and
17 from providers.

18 And the other thing that we're finding
19 kind of just systematically is a lack of
20 qualitative and quantitative measures.

21 So it seems that a lot of these programs
22 were set up very quickly as, you know, we were all

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1 the rest home in the middle of the pandemic. And
2 there hasn't been a lot of opportunity to reflect
3 on them.

4 So I think this is a particularly
5 interesting, particularly exciting moment to be
6 talking to these program officials which it gives
7 them a chance to really reflect and maybe they
8 haven't had that opportunity yet.

9 So I think that actually brings us to
10 the end of our slides for Workstream 2.

11 And Chris James, do you want to add
12 anything? I know I monopolized all of our speaking
13 here.

14 MR. JAMES: No, I think you hit all the
15 great points, Dr. Ali. And thank you for Dr. Ali,
16 and thank you for leading the charge and the whole
17 team.

18 So just wanted to touch base on that.

19 DR. ALI: Thank you, thank you so much.

20 And happy to take any other questions
21 anyone might have.

22 CHAIR GATE: Hi, Dr. Ali.

1 DR. ALI: I do have one more slide
2 there, too.

3 Oh, hi, Heather, sorry.

4 CHAIR GATE: I have a question.

5 Something that has been coming up and
6 I wondered if that has come up for you in these
7 interviews and it has to do with ACP.

8 There seems to be a growing concern
9 about the money running out because it is \$14
10 billion and it is going to run out at some point.

11 And so one of the things is that some
12 anchor institutions have started to become wary
13 of promoting something that's not sustainable.

14 Is that -- have you heard any of that
15 in any of your conversations?

16 DR. ALI: We have certainly heard the
17 concern about ACP running out. We have not heard
18 a concern around maybe anchor institutions should
19 not be promoting it in light of the fact that they
20 know the money's going to run out.

21 So we haven't heard that second part
22 yet, but we certainly have heard concerns of ACP

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1 running out and will there be another pod of money?

2 Will this be sustainable?

3 But not specifically from anchor
4 institutions around should they be promoting this
5 program?

6 CHAIR GATE: Okay. And I believe we
7 have Dr. Harrison on.

8 Dr. Harrison, would you mind joining?

9 DR. HARRISON: Yes, good afternoon.
10 I apologize for my absence, but it looks like Dr.
11 Ali and Chris have been introducing the -- or
12 reintroducing the work and talking about the great
13 accomplishments that's been achieved.

14 I want to take this moment, if there's
15 nothing else, Dr. Ali and Chris, to open it up for
16 questions from the audience about this line of
17 work.

18 MS. ALLEN: Hey, Dr. Ali, I think that
19 the recurring question is the need to find
20 resources and know how to reach the consumer. This
21 resonates throughout the entire nonprofit
22 grassroots community.

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1 Wherever you go, it's how do you reach
2 them? Particularly the disparate community.

3 And this is, I think, the major
4 question. We talk about we have to collect data.

5 You can't collect data if you know where to go
6 and when you go there, you don't know who to talk
7 to and how to organize the groups who can come and
8 disclose and tell you what you want to know.

9 That's -- I think that's a major big
10 piece in the middle of the room that we've got to
11 stop, whether we're in the IIJA or anything else
12 that healthcare, education, and all, we've got to
13 figure out where -- what's that magic bullet that
14 we can reach the intended target.

15 You're right, I've done other work
16 where we can sit in our office and behind our laptop
17 and we send an email, go to social media, and send
18 it out, they'll come. They won't come. We've got
19 to go them.

20 I'm doing a project right now, I'm
21 having what I call the Asian-American small
22 business advocacy. They're becoming our

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1 salesmen. They're knocking on doors.

2 Because these small businesses are not
3 going to go and get dressed up, go to breakfast
4 in the morning, go to hotel and listen to somebody
5 lecture them. They're not going to go.

6 So I think the big question is how and
7 where do we go to reach them?

8 DR. ALI: Yes, if I could quickly just
9 respond to that. And I certainly don't want to
10 put the words in our respondents' mouths, but I
11 think that a lot of our respondents would echo this
12 concern.

13 One of the ways that we're trying to
14 address it is not only asking stakeholders what
15 worked in terms of outreach, but also asking them
16 what didn't work.

17 And I think, for me, this is one of the
18 interesting things is we had one set, one provider
19 from -- smaller providers from a regional provider
20 talk to us about the fact that text messaging didn't
21 work for their community, that it was not a viable
22 -- and not that it wasn't viable, no one was

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1 responding to these text messages around informing
2 folks about ACP. So text messaging wasn't
3 working.

4 But we heard from another community
5 that phone calls were working.

6 And so I think one of the things that's
7 going to be important for our group is both to
8 catalog what is working and what doesn't work and
9 then maybe probe into what were the -- what was
10 going on? What was the explanation? What was the
11 context for why maybe text messaging to high school
12 students wasn't working around, you know, getting
13 the information out about broadband? But phone
14 calls to households was working.

15 To me, that just stands out and
16 something that's been flagged in my head. And I
17 couldn't agree with you more around the importance
18 of collecting these stories and putting together
19 some recipes for community outreach.

20 MS. ALLEN: One last suggestion, and
21 we are beginning to explore the idea of using social
22 influencers. Some of them, they are very -- they

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1 have a big following. And if we can find good role
2 models, social influencers and that message can
3 resonate. They can be our messenger.

4 I hear the thing is, how much do they
5 ask for? We have been able to get some social
6 influencer who come to us and saw what we did and
7 say, well, I like your mission. I'm not going to
8 charge you, I'll cut my fee into half.

9 And if we can invest some time and
10 thought into that, that may be one way to do so,
11 especially in the younger generation community and
12 they can go back home and influence their
13 household, their families.

14 DR. ALI: I think that's a great idea.
15 Let's bring in the influencers. I love it.

16 DR. HARRISON: All right, well, thank
17 you so much Dr. Ali. And thank you, Chris, for
18 leading this work and talking about some of the
19 interviews that are slated to happen the next few
20 weeks.

21 But also about the expected outcomes
22 that we are looking forward to. Really appreciate

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1 it.

2 All right, and to the FCC team, we can
3 start over. I am trying to become a pro juggler
4 so I, again, apologize for being late in this
5 presentation.

6 All right, good afternoon, everyone.
7 Again, my name is Dominique Harrison. I
8 represent the Joint Center for Political and
9 Economic Studies and I am the Chair of the Digital
10 Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group.

11 Thank you to the CEDC chair and the vice
12 chairs for their leadership and support.

13 And I also want to thank the FCC's
14 Designated Federal Officers for their support and
15 stewardship over the past 18 months.

16 Over the past year, the DEI working
17 group has worked diligently to complete the
18 activities and work we set out to achieve in 2022.

19 Next slide? Thank you to each member
20 of the working group. In addition to their
21 full-time positions, has shown up to multiple
22 meetings during the week, responded to several

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1 requests to provide their input on our work. And
2 for those who continue to step up to advance our
3 work.

4 Thank you to Dr. Christopher Ali,
5 Yvette Badu-Nimako, who is a new member from the
6 National Urban League, Clayton Banks, Robert
7 Branson, Michele Cober, Sarah Kate Ellis, Matt
8 Wood, Dr. Jon Gant, Anisa Green, Rebecca Gibbons,
9 Hooman Hedayati, Chris James, Nicolaine Lazarre,
10 Louis Peraertz, and Antonio Williams, who's an
11 alternate for Broderick Johnson.

12 Next slide? As a reminder to our
13 audience, the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion
14 Working Group is charged with a number of goals.

15 Our first goal is to identify
16 innovative solutions and provide recommendations
17 for how to accelerate the equitable deployment of
18 broadband access in all communities, including
19 those communities that comprise people of color,
20 and others who have been historically underserved,
21 marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent
22 poverty and inequality in access to technology,

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1 communications services, and next generation
2 networks which have resulted in negative impacts
3 in education and employment.

4 Next slide? Secondly, our group is
5 charged with providing recommendations for
6 reducing and removing regulatory barriers to the
7 equitable deployment of and investment in
8 broadband access and adoption in all communities,
9 including tribal, rural, and historically
10 marginalized communities.

11 Next slide? We are also charged with
12 providing recommendations for strengthening
13 existing networks and developing new ones.

14 And lastly, we are charged with making
15 recommendations for addressing digital redlining
16 and other barriers that impact equitable access
17 to emerging technology in underserved and under
18 connected communities, including people of color,
19 persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities.

20 Next slide? The DEI Working Group
21 developed three workstreams to achieve these
22 goals.

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1 One of the inaugural and urgent tasks
2 of the CEDC was to present recommendations to the
3 Commission on the public policies programs and
4 other strategic initiatives to advance equity in
5 the provision of and access to digital
6 communication services and products for all people
7 of the United States without discrimination on the
8 basis of race, color, religion, national origin,
9 sex, or disability.

10 What came from that workstream was,
11 one, and the achieved goal was delivered on
12 November 7th of 2022 when the CEDC adopted our
13 report, recommendations and best practices to
14 prevent digital discrimination and promote digital
15 equity.

16 The report is now part of the FCC notice
17 for proposed rulemaking in which the FCC sought
18 public comments to adopt our recommendations and
19 best practices.

20 Comments were due this week on or before
21 February 21st of this year.

22 Our working group looks forward to the

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1 future outcomes of this work.

2 In addition to that workstream, our
3 group has continued to work towards achieving two
4 other objections, our listening sessions and our
5 public convening.

6 Our workstream leads will go in depth
7 on the work momentarily. You just saw Dr. Ali and
8 Chris share more on what happened in our listening
9 sessions and the outcomes that should be expected.

10 And next, you will hear from Workstream
11 3 co-leads, Clayton Banks and Vickie Robinson on
12 the work ahead.

13 So, without further ado, I will ask
14 Vickie to come on video to talk about that
15 workstream.

16 And I also want to take this time to
17 thank Sarah Kate Ellis for her leadership as a
18 co-lead because she is not present today.

19 So, next slide? So what we spoke about
20 earlier was that all the folks that were working
21 on Workstream 1 have now gone into new workstreams,
22 Workstream 2 and Workstream 3 to help advance that

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1 work.

2 So, again, I want to thank all the
3 members who worked diligently through Workstream
4 1 and our co-leads who led the help to lead that
5 work, Dr. Gant and also Joy Chaney, who's formally
6 of the National Harvard League.

7 Next slide? And we'll skip these,
8 please, to get to this slide. Perfect, thank you.

9 Over to you, Vickie.

10 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Dr.
11 Harrison.

12 Good afternoon, FCC colleagues and
13 members of the CEDC.

14 Again, I'm Vickie Robinson, and I have
15 the honor and pleasure to co-lead Workstream 3
16 which has been sufficiently kind of described by
17 Dr. Harrison.

18 So building on the great work of our
19 colleagues from Workstreams 1 and 2, on March 23rd
20 of this year we will convene a variety of key
21 stakeholders across government, the private and
22 public sectors, and community organizations with

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1 the goal of exchanging information on work done
2 to ensure that opportunity communities, that is,
3 those communities who are historically under
4 connected and/or underserved with the goal to
5 understand who were they able to have access to
6 broadband and also avail themselves to that access
7 during the pandemic.

8 Our goals for this convening are to,
9 first, discern and refine best practices to connect
10 opportunity communities and also promote equitable
11 access to emerging tech in these underserved and
12 under connected communities.

13 Secondly, our hope is to distill
14 lessons learned through these experiences that can
15 then inform how we ensure that opportunity
16 communities can, again, take advantage of this full
17 scope of broadband and digital technologies beyond
18 the pandemic.

19 That is, including but not limited to,
20 affordable devices, digital skill set readiness,
21 education, and workforce development skills.

22 I now want to hand off to my colleague,

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1 Clayton Banks, who also is another co-lead for
2 Workstream 3 to provide some details around current
3 planning for the March 23rd convening.

4 Clayton, over to you.

5 MR. BANKS: Thank you, Vickie.

6 And I'd like to also thank Dr. Harrison
7 for her great leadership for us here at Workstream
8 3.

9 What we're doing with Workstream 3 is
10 quite unique. It is the last, almost the last
11 thing that we're doing with this whole FCC job.

12 And I think we'll be looking at what
13 I think the chair has talked about in the public
14 that this is the way we're going to have to have
15 governments and communities all working together.

16 And that's where Workstream 3 is really
17 focused on. And we're doing it in the process of
18 that to part of the conversation that we are putting
19 together around this particular topic.

20 As you see in our slide here, we're very
21 focused on the March 23rd event. You all are
22 invited and hope you will join. I think it's going

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1 to be quite robust.

2 And as we say in our slide here, as many
3 jobs, schools, you can add in health, and you know,
4 as a major one over the last couple of years.

5 The needs of the broadband connectivity
6 across, you know, amplified. We're all very much
7 on the same page on that.

8 The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the
9 challenges Americans underserved communities face
10 in accessing high-speed internet access to meet
11 their basic needs from working at home,
12 participating in distance learning or taking part
13 in many other important activities for which
14 internet access is crucial.

15 Our panel members are going to address
16 all of these issues, the affordability, adoption,
17 some about deployment.

18 So all that is going to be part of the
19 two panels that we're working with.

20 As the pandemic continues to impact all
21 communities across the United States, we will find
22 what the best practices have worked to encourage

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1 the adoption of broadband, what programs have been
2 developed to address the affordability of services
3 and devices, and what lessons have leaders learned
4 on providing broadband services to opportunity
5 communities.

6 This concerning will bring together key
7 stakeholders across government, community
8 organizations, and industry to share lessons
9 learned on the availability, affordability, and
10 adopting of broadband services for opportunity
11 communities.

12 We really, really are excited that we
13 are having this opportunity to bring this together.

14 And if you have any questions, we'll
15 take them right now.

16 Thank you very much, Vickie. Thank you
17 very much, Dr. Harrison.

18 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

19 I think we have one just additional
20 slide here which is really just some remarks we
21 want to say in closing and really appreciate you
22 sharing those details, Clayton.

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1 So, in closing, we want to reiterate
2 for this group that our hope is to build upon
3 lessons learned during the pandemic so that we're
4 just not going through that experience without also
5 carrying forward work and practices that can inform
6 how we continue to ensure that digital equity is
7 realized for all communities.

8 And so to do this, we want to include
9 themes that reflect both positive and negative
10 experiences to extend meaningful broadband access
11 for opportunity communities.

12 As Dr. Ali said in his remarks, we're
13 not just soliciting positive feedback, but we also
14 want to understand what didn't work so that we can
15 then learn from those experiences.

16 And then, secondly, we want to develop
17 best practices and an understanding of challenges
18 with a view to encouraging deployment and adopting
19 of broadband and meaningful connectivity as
20 further framed in this slide.

21 Again, on behalf of all of us that are
22 working on Workstream 3, we want to thank you for

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1 the opportunity to give you an update on our
2 upcoming listening session and we hope that
3 everyone will participate. It will be virtual.

4 I will now pass things back to Dr.
5 Harrison.

6 DR. HARRISON: Thank you, again,
7 Clayton, Vickie, for leading this line of work,
8 really appreciate your leadership here.

9 So at this moment, I wanted to open it
10 up for questions for Clayton or Vickie in regards
11 to the work ahead.

12 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Dominique.
13 Thank you, Vickie and Clayton.

14 I'm extremely excited about this event
15 that you all are putting together and the agenda
16 that you set forward. I think this is -- it's very,
17 very important for us to be very -- to be reflective
18 of the creative things that we did during the
19 pandemic.

20 The creativity that came out of there,
21 of that time, and see how we can really help the
22 FCC and other institutions to really learn from

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1 that and take from that.

2 Because there were a lot of things that
3 were done that -- in January 2020, we were told
4 it was not possible. We couldn't get any of these
5 things done.

6 And so I'm very excited about the agenda
7 that you all have put together as far as that's
8 concerned.

9 I wanted to share an experience a
10 colleague of mine had. She went to a small town
11 Texas near the border to provide -- to conduct
12 digital literacy training in a library, a small
13 library in the middle of nowhere.

14 The library had a safe, secure
15 telehealth room where people can go and have their
16 telehealth.

17 And these are some of the outcomes of
18 pandemic time line that this room was fully
19 equipped with equipment that people that live in
20 that very remote area can go and get telehealth
21 services.

22 And these are people that don't have

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1 the skills and they don't have the connectivity
2 at home.

3 And so being able to amplify these
4 stories and really sort of make recommendations
5 on what we can do to keep that going and not --

6 As you all know, we're coming up to the
7 end of the emergency period in May. And so we want
8 to make sure that we don't close the door and walk
9 away from things that we did right and go back to
10 the old ways.

11 So thank you for accepting the
12 challenge and really helping to close this CEDC
13 in a very powerful and meaningful way by being
14 reflective and sort of making recommendations that
15 really will continue to advance digital equity.

16 Also, while feeding into the
17 requirements of these state broadband planning and
18 digital equity plans as well. That is the backdrop
19 that we're working with. So let's take advantage
20 of that.

21 MS. ROBINSON: One thing I would say,
22 Heather, and I love the example that you pointed

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1 to and I think it's an important thing to highlight.

2 When you think about anchor
3 institutions, essentially, being the anchors in
4 the communities.

5 Even as we, you know, I guess maybe
6 we're in an endemic stage of this journey that we've
7 been on for the, you know, what is now approaching
8 three years, is making sure that those anchor
9 institutions continue to and remain as redundant
10 kind of safety nets.

11 And that's something that we should not
12 lose sight of because there could be another
13 natural disaster. Right?

14 And, you know, while our work and we
15 are resolved to ensure that everyone is able to
16 have in home access and that they can afford and
17 that's meaningful and the skills and devices that
18 are necessary to do it, that's going to -- that's
19 not -- that's a dial. That's not a switch.

20 And so, again, that speaks to the need
21 to take these examples of these -- what I would
22 describe as an agile library and very scrappy to

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1 kind of serve as this multipurpose, you know, safe
2 space for communities to be served.

3 CHAIR GATES: Thank you. Thank you,
4 Vickie.

5 And Clayton is in the right place at
6 the right time because we have stories to tell about
7 the impact of COVID and the inability of seniors
8 in places like New York being able to access
9 vaccines and help, quite simply because they didn't
10 know and they could not register. They didn't have
11 the skills nor the devices to schedule these
12 appointments.

13 And so what ends up happening in places
14 like Harlem is it's stacked with people coming from
15 outside that have the resources.

16 And so that is something that we want
17 to make sure that doesn't happen the next time.

18 MR. BANKS: Well, I'm glad you
19 mentioned that.

20 There's a lot of energy before the
21 pandemic on getting everyone connected. But the
22 pandemic certainly had opened the eyes for so many.

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1 When Chair Gate talked about the
2 homework app, I remember her talking about
3 universal access during the pandemic and pre-chair
4 actually.

5 But so, yes, and New York was one of
6 the hot spots. It got hit real hard for dense city.

7 So it spreads very quickly and weren't able to
8 get into a hospital and not be able to talk to a
9 doctor.

10 But I hate to end with this type of
11 thing, but dead bodies, it was terrible in New York.

12 So, but, I don't end with that, but
13 these conversations we're going to have and people
14 at the table is going to make a big difference.

15 CHAIR GATE: Thank you.

16 DR. HARRISON: Yes, thank you so much,
17 Clayton and Vickie.

18 And, you know, I just wanted to say is
19 that we've gotten invitations out so really looking
20 forward to the diversity of stakeholders that will
21 be able to hear from across the U.S. and its
22 territory in terms of lessons learned during the

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1 pandemic.

2 CHAIR GATE: Yes, save the date, March
3 23rd. Be there, we want to hear from you, ask
4 questions, share on social media. This is an
5 important discussion.

6 DR. HARRISON: All right, well, thank
7 you, again, to all of our co-leads and members of
8 the working group for helping to advance this
9 important collective work.

10 And I will turn it over to Chairman
11 Heather.

12 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Dr. Harrison
13 and thank you to the Digital Empowerment and
14 Inclusion Working Group for this fantastic work.

15 You all have completed one workstream
16 and moved into two other workstreams. And
17 continue to do -- to work diligently.

18 So we're really excited that you will
19 be our closing public event before we have our final
20 meeting to make recommendations.

21 But so as we close today, I remain
22 really excited about the work of this council and

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1 very grateful for you all really committing to it
2 and committing your time and treasure and the
3 organizations that you represent as well.

4 So we have a little more work to do
5 before we return to this platform to make our final
6 recommendations to the FCC.

7 And so before I close, I just wanted
8 to make sure that my co-chairs don't have any
9 closing statements as we close this.

10 Nicol, are you still on with us and
11 Susan?

12 DR. TURNER-LEE: I am, I am.

13 No, I just want to echo what you said,
14 Chairwoman Gate, that this was an incredibly
15 substantive day that we learned a little bit more
16 about the next traunch of work from the working
17 committees.

18 And hopefully, the public sees the
19 direction of the CEDC going forward as we complete
20 our work this year.

21 Obviously, it's still very urgent and
22 at the same time, that urgency is still top of mind

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1 to ensure that there's equitable and universal
2 broadband access for the unserved and the served.

3 I think we also picked up that inclusion
4 is key, particularly inclusion of all the various
5 sectors that are represented on this committee.

6 I would only add to the conversation
7 that I think it was mentioned by Radhika in the
8 beginning that the, you know, there's still a lot
9 of conversation on digital discrimination. And
10 thanks to this committee, there's been a lot of
11 formation and influence on those discussions.

12 And that we just keep an ear tuned to
13 how this committee can continue to be very timely
14 and appropriate to the various stakeholders as they
15 navigate the IIJA.

16 So thank you to everyone for your time
17 and thank you to my co-chairs for this ride as well
18 as our FCC DFOs for their continued support of us.

19 MS. ALLEN: And then, I also want to
20 add a little to what Dr. Lee has said and as we
21 close's today's presentations, I want to thank,
22 again, Heather, our fantastic CEDC chair. You

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1 continue to lead our council in tackling some of
2 our agency's most pressing challenges.

3 I want to thank and recognize you,
4 Nicol. It's always great collaborating with you.
5 You always have my back, I love you.

6 DR. TURNER-LEE: I do. Look, between
7 me and you and Heather, I've got your back and also
8 your talk space. You and I, we get together.
9 We've got this.

10 MS. ALLEN: You always have my back and
11 I cannot do without you. Okay? And you know that.

12 And thank you to my Innovation and
13 Access Working Group, also ably led by Robert
14 Brooks for your hard work and insights on reducing
15 entry barriers, encouraging ownership of media
16 that ensures a broad range of voices and views.

17 And by extension, helping to close
18 America's digital divide and digital skills gap
19 to empower disadvantaged communities and ensure
20 that more diverse stakeholders have a seat at the
21 table.

22 We also heard the impact and work of

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1 and reports from our Diversity and Equity Working
2 Group and the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion
3 Working Group, thank you all.

4 Our efforts today represent important
5 steps towards ensuring equity, fairness,
6 diversity, and opportunity for minority
7 communities and more inclusive and truly
8 representational America reflected in media
9 ownership, digital empowerment, and inclusivity.

10 I'm excited for our continued progress
11 and efforts in championing these issues and seeing
12 them through to fruition.

13 Thank you all, thank you to all of my
14 CEDC colleagues. I look forward to working --
15 marching forward with you, truly marching forward
16 in partnership and success. And of course, we
17 couldn't have done without Jamila and her team's
18 leadership. See you again soon.

19 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, thank you,
20 Susan.

21 And just to close, I do want to
22 reiterate my gratitude to our DFOs. You know, I

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1 tip my -- if I had a hat on, I would tip it to Jamila
2 Bess Johnson for being -- this is my third -- I
3 think all three of us, it's our third time on this
4 ride with Jamila and --

5 DR. TURNER-LEE: No, I've been on since
6 Chairman Jenna Kowalski. David Honig knows, if
7 there's anything to be said, I feel like I've been
8 on it like very long.

9 MS. ALLEN: Stop aging everybody, stop
10 this while you're ahead. You're aging yourself.

11 CHAIR GATE: Let me thank, Jamila.
12 Thank you so much for your patience and just your
13 really keeping us moving and keeping us on task.

14 Thank you so much to Aurelie and to
15 Diana for all the work that you do to get us going.

16 Thank you to Jeff and the tech staff
17 that are there to support us in the background.

18 They make sure look good when we come and show
19 up for these calls.

20 So thank you all, and I'm very excited
21 about the next few months and what we are going
22 to be delivering in June. It's going to be

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1 powerful from what you all saw today and very
2 relevant.

3 And I urge all the CEDC members, thank
4 you, to continue talking to each other, within
5 working groups. So if something comes up,
6 reports, please share with each other so that when
7 we come back in June, it's our voice as a council.

8 So, Jamila, over to you, thank you.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you so much, thank
11 you so much Chair Heather Gate. You take so much
12 time to come to the -- all of the workstream
13 meetings. So you really have your finger on the
14 minutia of what all of the groups are doing.

15 And thank you, Susan Allen for all the
16 passion that you bring to the small, diverse
17 entrepreneur, the businesses.

18 And we thank you for introducing us to
19 Diana Ding and her important media outlet for
20 Asian-Americans. Thank you for that.

21 And always thank you to Dr. Nicol
22 Turner-Lee for bringing the fire and helping us

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1 to remember those who are voiceless in this very
2 high and exalted place of the Federal
3 Communications Commission.

4 Thank you all, each, for your
5 engagement.

6 It's been a great day, I think it's been
7 a really, really great day to hear all of the read
8 outs from these working groups, to hear about their
9 research, their investigations, their data
10 collection, and how they're just sifting all of
11 that into a synthesis of recommendations that
12 ultimately we hope will benefit the public good.

13 And I can assure you, having attended
14 these weekly meetings that these issues are
15 robustly debated. These are not just
16 rubber-stamping of ideas. These are vigorous
17 debates that people are having.

18 So we're grateful for the time and the
19 energy and the commitment that you all are putting
20 in.

21 And I want to thank each of the working
22 group chairs because you all are directing and

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1 facilitating this work. So big thank you to Chris
2 Wood, to Robert Brooks, and Dr. Dominique Harrison.

3 And I also want to take a quick moment
4 and thank all of the workstream leads because they
5 really, at a very granular level, keep this work
6 pushing forward. And that means sometimes they
7 do a fair share of it themselves.

8 And so thank you to Howie Hodges, to
9 Matt Bauer, Antonio Tijerino, Rosa Mendoza, Skip
10 Dillard, Ellen Schned, Aama Nahuja, Charlyn
11 Stanberry, Melody Spann Cooper, Chris James, Dr.
12 Christopher Ali, Clayton Banks, Vickie Robinson,
13 and Sarah Kate Ellis.

14 You each helped shoulder all of the work
15 that is going on in these three working groups.

16 We also want to thank the FCC's AV team
17 of Jeff Reardon, Steve Balderson, and Greg Huff.

18 We've put you through your paces today. So thank
19 you, thank you for being patient with us.

20 Thank you also to Aurelie Mathieu,
21 Diana Coho, and Deandra Wilson for your support
22 of today's meeting and all of your behind the scenes

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1 support of scheduling and interviews and the
2 materials and all of the work that goes into putting
3 on a public event such as we had on February 7th.

4 So thank you for that.

5 And I just encourage everyone to try
6 and stay engaged with the CEDC, as you have heard,
7 we are heading toward our conclusion after two
8 years of talking to disparate groups throughout
9 the country, hearing from people who not regularly
10 interface with the FCC.

11 And we hope to take all of that and bring
12 it to Chairwoman Rosenworcel as a set of
13 comprehensive recommendations and policy best
14 practices that she can take under advisement.

15 So please stay informed, visit our
16 website at www.fcc.gov, and we hope to see you on
17 March 6th and March 23rd.

18 And until next time, we say thank you
19 and take care. Bye-bye.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
21 went off the record at 2:06 p.m.)

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