

Communications Equity and Diversity Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

OVERVIEW

This document includes summary information about the June 15, 2023, meeting of the CEDC, which was the final meeting of the 2021-2023 charter. These summary minutes include the overarching recommendations made by the CEDC's Working Groups. In addition, the links to the Events Page, meeting agenda, video footage from the Livestream, and other relevant information are provided below:

- **The CEDC Web Page** can be found here: <https://www.fcc.gov/communications-equity-and-diversity-council>
- **The Events Page** for this meeting can be found here: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/06/communications-equity-and-diversity-council-meeting-june-2023>
- **The Agenda** for this meeting can be found here: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-diversity-committee-releases-agenda-june-15-meeting>
- **The Video Footage** from the livestream can be found here: <https://youtu.be/0JyJCAtUBOo>
- **The Final Reports and Recommendations** submitted by the Working Groups can be found here:
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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome and Opening of Meeting (10 am)

- Holly Sauerer, Chief, Media Bureau, FCC

Welcome Remarks (10:05 am)

- Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman, FCC
- Brendan Carr, Commissioner, FCC
- Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner, FCC
- Nathan Simington, Commissioner, FCC
- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, CEDC, Media Bureau
- Diana Coho, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Specialist, CEDC, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

CEDC Chair/Vice Chairs' Opening Remarks (10:30 am)

- **Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation** – Expressed her thanks, encouraged everyone to reflect on the incredible journey undertaken since this charter began. She reviewed CEDC tasks and gave a brief review of status. The country cannot fail in getting everyone online, given this unprecedented investment in critical infrastructure and affordability. Would like to have the FCC share the workgroup recommendations with the other federal agencies, such as NTIA.
- **Nicol Turner Lee, Ph.D., Vice Chair, CEDC, Brookings Institution** – Spoke about civil rights, post-George Floyd, action steps were taken. Digital Discrimination – statutory requirement of the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Need to address digital redlining, proposals for upskilling for those with and without college degrees, diversity throughout the supply chain, minority and women in broadcasting, engagement with nontraditional anchor institutions.
- **Susan Au Allen, Vice Chair, CEDC, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation** -Extended her thanks to the working groups. Digital media is transforming the way we learn, work, and play. Economic development, how we express

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ourselves and connect with each other. This shapes our perceptions, opinions, and actions. This is how our democracy works; we must reach unserved and underserved as well as small businesses. This must be a national priority to promote civic engagement, social justice, and reflect our culture. We must also consider how to reflect public needs, digital equity, and diversity. We must move recommendations into real input. Make digital media more equitable and diverse for everyone.

Call to Order of the June 15, 2023, CEDC Meeting/Roll Call of CEDC Members (10:45 am)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation
- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, CEDC, Media Bureau

Members indicating “present” include the following:

CEDC Chair Heather Gate

CEDC Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee

CEDC Vice Chair Susan Au Allen, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY WORKING GROUP

Working Group Chair

Chris Wood, LGBT Tech

Appointed CEDC Members

Aama Nahuja, A Wonder Media Company, LLC

Antonio Tijerino, Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Charlyn Stanberry, National Association of Broadcasters

Graham “Skip” Dillard, Audacy New York 94.7 WXBX-FM

Jill Houghton, Disability: IN

Melody Spann Cooper, Midway Broadcasting Corporation

Rosa Mendoza, ALLvanza

Dr. Ronald Johnson, Wireless Infrastructure Association

Brian Scarpelli, ACT/The App Association

Appointed Working Group Members

Ellen Schned, Strong Women Alliance

Faith Bautista, National Diversity Coalition

Jenna Alsayegh, USTelecom

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Mona Thompson, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority

Otto Padron, Meruelo Media

INNOVATION AND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

Working Group Chair

Robert Brooks, WHUR-FM 96.3, Howard University

Appointed CEDC Members

Matthew Bauer, Wireless Research Center

David Honig, JulGlo Productions, LLC

Henry Rivera, Representing Emma Bowen Foundation

Steven Roberts, The Roberts Companies

Joycelyn Tate, Black Women's Roundtable, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

Subject Matter Expert

Dr. Dianne Lynch, Stephens College

Appointed Working Group Members

Susan Corbett, National Digital Equity Center

Charles Harrell II, The IT Architect Corporation

Jennifer J. Jackson, Stellar TV and Central City Productions

Leticia Latino-van Splunteren, Neptuno USA

Eve Lewis, City of Coconut Creek, Florida

Edgar Class, Representing Hispanic National Bar Association

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Working Group Chair

Dr. Dominique Harrison, representing the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Appointed CEDC Members

Clayton Banks, Silicon Harlem

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Robert Branson, Multicultural Media Telecom and Internet Council

Michele Cober, Verizon

Chris James, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development

Nicolaine Lazarre, Charter Communications

Vickie Robinson, Microsoft

Antonio Williams, Comcast Corporation (alternate for Broderick Johnson)

Subject Matter Experts

Dr. Christopher Ali, Penn State University

Dr. Jon Gant, North Carolina Central University

Appointed Working Group Members

Anisa Green, AT&T

Matt Wood, Free Press

Rebecca Gibbons, City of Portland

Hooman Hedayati, Communications Workers of America

Louis Peraertz, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association

Innovation and Access Working Group Report (11:00 am)

- Robert Brooks, Digital Solutions Specialist, WHUR-FM, Howard University, Chair, Innovation and Access Working Group – presented an overview of the working group, recommendations for inclusive practices and selection in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and its contracting and grants processes.
- Jennifer J. Jackson, Executive Vice President, Stellar TV and Central City Productions, Workstream 2 Member (Access to Capital) – Presented Workstream 2 recommendations. Henry Rivera, workgroup member, underscored the resources portion of their report. He also asked that it be posted online to help those interested in entering the telecom industry.
- Matthew Bauer, Vice President and Executive Director of Connected Communities, Wireless Research Center, Workstream 3 Lead (Digital Equity/Closing the Digital Skills Gap) – Presented an overview of this workstream, their process, and action items. Explained how they explored the need for digital access and digital skills based on the notion that employers are desperate to hire people with digital skills, and people need and want good jobs. Focused on the intersection of need and desire, this workstream took the opportunity to help find resources, conduct research, provide tools, and best practices.

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- Dr. Dianne Lynch, President, Stephens College, Workstream 3 Member – Explained how the workstream heard from so many experts and advocates that this starts by meeting people where they are. How to incentivize the private sector to embed training. Eliminate barriers. Build community trust. Provide tools and projects, a plan checklist, sample digital training programs.
- Susan Corbett, Founder, National Digital Equity Center, Workstream 3 Member – Presented recommendations, including the recommendation that the FCC share the workstream’s report with NTIA and other government/agency stakeholders.
- Leticia Latino-Van Spluteren, CEO, Neptuno USA, Workstream 3 Member – Discussed the importance of trusted partnerships and positive lessons learned from ACP in addressing the Digital Divide.

Questions from Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee

1. What does the Workgroup recommend in terms of where to send this report? Where should the broadband outreach work recommendation go to, in the FCC? To specific actors and agencies actually doing this work? NTIA? Want to put that on record. Have they thought about who should get this recommendation and call to action?
 - **Matthew Bauer** explained that Workstream 3 did consider more detailed recommendations including design of an interagency effort, however, after deliberation, the workstream ultimately decided to narrow their scope and focus. The 50 state organizations that the NTIA is working with already have channels set up. Perhaps the FCC could be a convener, maybe the next CEDC next charter could address that.
 - **Leticia Latino-Van Spluteren** opined that interagency collaboration is key. Leticia was on a former workgroup with another federal agency. Now each state is forming a broadband office. She is involved in Florida, forwards reports to their state agency. Help follow up, work with Designated Federal Officers to help guarantee that those reports go to the states and other identified entry points at appropriate agencies.
 - **Chair Heather Gate** appreciated the strategic thinking, wanted to recognize the follow up discussions, their strategy of bringing people to the table.

Vote on Recommendations – Adopted by unanimous consent.

Both workstreams formally submitted their reports and recommendations for approval by the CEDC. All of the recommendations from Workstreams 2 and 3 were adopted unanimously.

Specifically, Innovation & Access Workstream 2 recommended that the Commission:

1. Develop an outreach and public awareness campaign that targets women and minorities with information about OCBO’s role in promoting participation of small businesses, women, and minorities in the communications industry;
2. Discuss with congressional leaders the desirability, size, and structure of a broadcast diversity fund to boost Small Women and Minority-owned Businesses (SMWs);
3. Urge Congress to adopt legislation to restore and update the Tax Certificate Policy;
4. Urge Congress to pass the “Broadcast VOICES Act;” and
5. Spearhead the planning for an inter-agency task force that would include federal agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over issues impacting SMW businesses, including those issues pertaining to loans guarantees and federal advertising contracts and expenditures.

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Workstream 2 reviewed several previously adopted recommendations by earlier FCC diversity advisory committees. I&A Workstream 2 supports the following previously developed recommendations, and recommends that the CEDC present the following recommendations to the Commission for reconsideration:

1. Training for Asset Acquisitions and Mergers;
2. Procurement and Supplier Diversity Programs;
 - a. Extending the Cable Procurement Rule to All FCC-Regulated Industries;
 - b. New Communications Technologies Supplier Diversity Program; and
3. Creating an Entity to Purchase Loans in the Secondary Markets made to Minority and Small Businesses

To view the complete report, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-innovation-access-wg-access-to-capital-report-06152023.pdf>

Innovation & Access Workstream 3 recommended that the Commission:

1. Share Report with NTIA and other federal government/agency stakeholders.
2. Create a formalized “National Digital Skills Strategy:”
 - a. Consider re-chartering the CEDC (or a task force/committee) to focus on formalizing this Plan (with a Plan or interim report delivered no later than March 1, 2024). Requesting that I&A group continue the work, and that some of the same members be involved – the outputs would be up to that group - Invite representatives from key agencies, local/state organizations, and trade groups, but some recommendations could include:
 - i. Create CEDC taskforce/working group – include representatives from other agencies/organizations;
 - ii. Overarching mission follows the recommendations in WS#3 final report;
 - iii. Help create a framework that can be shared;
 - iv. Asset mapping;
 - v. Seek additional comments on a potential National Digital Upskilling; Plan as a further notice to the Digital Discrimination NPRM;
 - vi. Aggregate best practices from state equity plans into National Digital Skills Strategy into final recommendations;
 - vii. Determine metrics and measurement recommendations / goals for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Act (DEA) funding; and
 - viii. Ensure that providers are familiar with the Plan, its goals and create ways they can support the overall Digital Upskilling effort.
3. FCC should adopt digital upskilling strategies that are effective in the following areas:
 - a. Meet people where they are and build trust in the community;
 - b. Utilizes traditional media to reach underrepresented groups;

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- c. Overcome systemic barriers and emphasize sustainability through collaboration; and
- d. Measure outcomes and establish metrics.

To view the complete report, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-innovation-access-wg-digital-upskilling-report-06152023.pdf>

Lunch Break (11:50 am)

Diversity and Equity Working Group Report (1:00 pm)

- Christopher Wood, Executive Director, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute, Chair, Diversity and Equity Working Group – expressed the importance of visibility, encouraged everyone to reach out to whatever groups they identify with and talk with them at the national, state, regional, local level.
- Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation, Workstream 2 Co-Lead (Future of Work) – Presented key findings of this workstream around the state of the labor market, upskilling for new technology jobs, opportunities in the digital marketplace, and social infrastructure and ecosystem for worker involvement. Talked about job skill gaps, changing the course of community, family, economic mobility, core for community development which is often overlooked.
- Jenny Alsayegh, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships, USTelecom, Workstream 2 Member – Outlined the workstream’s recommendations. Institutions like health clinics and faith-based organizations can help meet communities where they are, communicate regularly with target groups in need. Partnerships can be replicated, successful models outlined.
- Aama Nahuja, Legal Counsel, A Wonder Media Company, LLC, Workstream 3 Co-Lead (Non-Traditional Anchor Institutions) – Noted other work groups and how their work was instrumental to this workstream’s efforts. Built on knowledge of anchor institutions to identify additional groups which they refer to as non-traditional anchor institutions. They are community based, were virtually unknown as anchor institutions. Also presented findings and recommendations.
- Charlyn Stanberry, Vice President, Government Relations, National Association of Broadcasters, Workstream 3 Co-Lead – explained the timeline of events for major accomplishments of this group including the Digital Ecosystem Forum held on March 6, 2023. Also presented findings and recommendations from their work with several non-traditional anchor institutions.
- Melody Spann Cooper, Chair and CEO, Midway Broadcasting Corporation, Workstream 3 Co-Lead – discussed her Fireside Chat with Dr. Gant during the Forum highlighting the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and suggested methods for partnerships and upscaling them to help close the digital divide.
- Melody Spann Cooper, Chair and CEO, Midway Broadcasting Corporation, Workstream 4 Co-Lead (Diverse Media, Communications and Tech Ownership and Development) – provided an overview of this workstream’s efforts including a summary of the Media Ownership Diversity Symposium held on February 7th, 2023, and introduced the workstream co-leads.
- Graham “Skip” Dillard, Format Vice President of Rhythmic AC and Throwback Formats and Brand Manager, Audacy New York 94.7 WXBK-FM, Workstream 4 Co-Lead – presented an in-depth look at the Symposium, which included more than 30 experts, owners, and senior executives from radio, television, cable, and the technology/gaming industry, along with non-profit media support groups. Discussed the nature of the issues raised and highlighted data and

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findings from the event and the interview with James Winston, President, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters.

- Ellen Schned, CEO, Strong Women Alliance, Workstream 4 Co-Lead – presented the workstream’s recommendations while emphasizing the need to review data reflecting the current landscape of ownership, how to incentivize the private sector, localism, use of advertising dollars, supplier diversity, and retransmission consent.

For more information about the Media Ownership Diversity Symposium, held on February 7, 2023, go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/02/media-ownership-diversity-symposium>

For more information about the Digital Ecosystem Forum, held on March 6, 2023, go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/03/digital-ecosystem-forum>

Questions from CEDC Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner Lee:

1. How do we get other agencies to see the value in supporting the non-traditional anchors which are not currently captured in the definition of anchor institutions? What are the best ways to express the role they play and the message that they get involved? Several workgroup members spoke up and gave examples, including response to the COVID-19 pandemic, where lots of groups played a role in helping people get online. Some recommended briefings to NTIA and others at the state level when dollars are being allocated, a bottom-up approach. Also recommended that a future workgroup could create a formal definition of non-traditional anchor institutions to raise awareness, allow funding, so people can relate, realize how these groups can engage. Dr. Turner Lee acknowledged that perhaps it would be up to Congress to define this term.
2. Advertising dollars were mentioned but not in the report. How can ad dollars and supply diversity be addressed – were they mentioned under the IJA?
 - a. **Skip Dillard** added that there needs to be more ways to get dollars to small, local tv and radio stations for advertising. Need to educate new and existing, young owners how to work with their local governments.
 - b. **Melody Spann Cooper** gave more examples – her company did benefit greatly from the COVID dollars from the Department of Health. Money spent in states, by the military, does not include spending with minority broadcasters. Regulators should mandate this. Post George Floyd, make a stand, support local broadcasters.
 - c. **Ellen Schned** added that ad buys go national from advertising agencies, which is viewed as more efficient, cuts out the small minority owned businesses. Same for supplier diversity. Contracts go to large companies.
 - d. **Vice Chair Susan Au Allen** stated that under Executive Order 13985 all federal agencies must spend on small businesses under the Biden Administration. Money is available to do outreach. The government has done their part. Who they contract with must be monitored, to be sure the dollars are doing where they were meant to go.
 - e. **Jocelyn Tate** is partnering with the Digital Equity project in North Carolina, recommended connecting with each state broadband office to educate them on how to do work with local non-traditional anchors.
 - f. **Robert Branson, MMTC** gave examples and opportunities from their work in several states coordinating with NTIA, state, and community officials under the BEAD program.

Request for Editorial Privileges – Vice Chair Susan Au Allen added minor edits to the report in a few places, Diversity and Equity Working Group Chair Chris Wood formally accepted the edits.

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Vote on Recommendations – The workstreams formally submitted their reports and recommendations for approval by the CEDC. All recommendations were adopted by unanimous consent. Also accepted editorial changes submitted by Vice Chair Susan Au Allen.

Specifically, Workstreams 2 and 3 recommended that the Commission:

Recommendation One: The FCC should encourage the National Telecommunications Information Administration to consider non-traditional anchor institutions as important to the national efforts to close the digital divide and generate the appropriate support (programmatic and financial) for digital upskilling. These are activities that are eligible for funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's \$2.75 billion Digital Equity Programs.

Recommendation Two: The FCC should formalize a Working Group on digital training, upskilling, and retraining among early childhood and adult learners and workers to ensure a willing and able workforce from historically disenfranchised populations.

Recommendation Three: The FCC or the next charter of the CEDC should maintain an inventory of industry-training resources and programs that advance workforce opportunities for vulnerable populations and continue to gather annually the diverse stakeholders, including non-traditional anchor institutions to discuss ways to improve the training ecosystem.

Recommendation Four: The FCC's Office of Workplace Diversity and its Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau should help develop formal alliances with these and other organizations that have deep roots and relationships within Hispanic, Asian American, Native American, African American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI), LGBTQ+ and other underrepresented communities to help with pipeline concerns in the broadband and tech sectors, as well as at the FCC.

To view the complete report from Workstreams 2 and 3, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-diversity-equity-wg-future-of-work-report-06152023.pdf>

Workstream 4 made the following recommendations to the Commission:

Recommendation One: The FCC should encourage Congress to reinstate the Minority Tax Certificate (MTC) program with safeguards and updates to meaningfully increase minority ownership. The FCC could develop and release a study or Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to begin a fact-based interrogation of the MTC's utility to improve diverse ownership in the media and communications sectors.

Recommendation Two: As the expert agency, the FCC should conduct a study or release a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on the state of retransmission consent to determine if revisions or updates are warranted, and those findings should be shared with Congress. As the expert agency over media and communications, the FCC can be a resource of fact-based information for Congress, the White House, and other branches of government that may help in assessing retransmission consent rules, and other congressional policies subjected to FCC jurisdiction.

Recommendation Three: The FCC or the next charter of the CEDC could create a comprehensive resource guide to inform the next generation of minority leaders and broadcast owners on training programs, government, and private funding opportunities on upskilling and professional development.

Recommendation Four: The FCC should work with Congress to help minorities and women gain greater access to capital through existing and emerging funding opportunities and ad dollars (especially those

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allocated to federal agencies) to support diverse owners in acquisitions, operations, carriage, and marketing.

To view the complete report from Workstream 4, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-diversity-equity-wg-media-ownership-diversity-report-06152023.pdf>

Meeting Break (1:50 pm)

Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group Report (2:10 pm)

- Dominique Harrison, Ph.D., Representing the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Chair, Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group – provided an overview of the group’s goals, membership, the various workstreams and their tasks.
- Dr. Jon Gant, Dean, School of Library and Information Sciences, North Carolina Central University, Subject Matter Expert, Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group – presented an overview of Workstream 1 and its findings based on interviews with experts about best practices and policies to prevent digital discrimination and support digital equity.
- Chris James, President and CEO, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, Workstream 2 Co-Lead (Listening Sessions on Lessons Learned: Connecting Opportunity Communities to Broadband During the COVID-19 Pandemic) – explained the goals for listening sessions conducted by Workstream 2 about lessons learned through programs that set out to provide emergency broadband services to opportunity communities during the pandemic.
- Dr. Christopher Ali, Pioneers Chair in Telecommunications, Professor of Telecommunications Penn State University, Workstream 2 Co-Lead – explained the approach taken by Workstream 2 in conducting the listening sessions and their objectives.
- Anisa Green, Director, Federal Regulatory, AT&T, Workstream 2 Member – presented on the types of institutions identified and the rationale behind why they were chosen for interviews.
- Matthew Wood, Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, Free Press, Workstream 2 Member – presented the key findings from the interviews. Wood discussed successes of outreach and enrollment for benefit programs including the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. He also explained that interviewees recommended areas of improvement for EBB and ACP, and generally voiced support for these programs and their importance in addressing digital divide issues.
- Clayton Banks, CEO, Silicon Harlem, Workstream 3 Co-Lead (Public Convening: Connecting Opportunity Communities to Broadband During the COVID-19 Pandemic) – presented on the March 23, 2023, convening of key stakeholders across internet service providers (ISPs), federal agencies with emergency broadband funding, state agencies, and community organizations concerning programs that provided broadband connectivity during the pandemic. Clayton also mentioned that the need for devices and digital literacy training came up frequently during the convening.

For more information about the Public Convening held on March 23, 2023, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/03/lessons-learned-pandemic-roundtable-broadband-access-affordability-and>

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Following the DEI Working Group's report, several members discussed the importance of ACP pointing out that affordability was an issue long before the pandemic. In addition, Dr. Gant explained that as technologies change, the way divides are defined, addressed, and monitored must be updated as well.

Dr. Harrison clarified that the DEI Working Group utilized the term "opportunity community." However, the recommendations put forward were reported by the people they interviewed and worked with during the public convening – they were not necessarily developed by the DEI Working Group on their own.

Vote on Recommendations – The DEI Working Group formally submitted their report and recommendations for review and approval. All of the recommendations from Workstreams 2 and 3 were adopted unanimously.

Specifically, the Working Group made the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. The federal government should continue the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).
2. There should be greater outreach efforts to educate families about the benefits of the ACP. Those outreach efforts should include many more languages than English.
3. Make it easier for families to enroll in the ACP.
4. Broadband service providers can implement their own low-cost broadband service programs with quality service and comparable speeds as high-income households and provide broadband connectivity centers within communities.
5. Non-profit organizations, and community anchor institutions (such as libraries) can develop Wi-Fi centers within local communities funded by the federal, state, local government and/or in partnership with industry.
6. To identify and overcome the challenges to broadband adoption, affordability, and greater participation in digital literacy skills training programs, broadband service providers and federal and state governments must collaborate and leverage the trusted relationships that anchor institutions have with their local communities.
7. To develop broadband adoption and digital literacy skills training on a national scale, the non-profit and private sectors need to develop best practices for broader collaboration.
8. The federal government must ensure States receive funds to develop their digital equity plans.

To view the entire report, go to:

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-digital-empowerment-inclusion-wg-broadband-access-report-06152023.pdf>

Questions/Comments from the Public (3:00 pm)

Patricia Boyers, President, CEO and Co-Founder BOYCOM Vision Chairman, ACA Connects offered supportive comments on the various recommendations of the Diversity and Equity Working Group particularly those recommendations pertaining to further review of retransmission consent policies. No questions were submitted by the public.

Closing Remarks (3:20 pm)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation – Thanked everyone for their help during the past two years. Encouraged everyone to submit their nominations and to join the new group. Encourage those stakeholders they spoke with to submit nominations.
- Nicol Turner Lee, Ph.D., Vice Chair, CEDC, Brookings Institution – Gave thanks and expressed gratitude. This is a big committee – 80 people is impressive. Despite the challenges, these reports

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demonstrate a lot of hard work and progress. If you come back, know what you are getting involved with. This committee, central intelligence, talks about the digital divide. Implore the FCC to know that there needs to be more people at the table. More diversity at the table for technical assistance, other advisory committees at the FCC.

- Susan Au Allen, Vice Chair, CEDC, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation – Thanked everyone and quoted a Chinese proverb "If you want one year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people." She expressed that the current CEDC and the one that will be formed under the new charter is about trying to grow people. She also emphasized the need to harness current opportunities under the current Administration and the need to help inform the next generations of leadership.

Adjournment (3:45 pm)

- Heather Gate, Chair, CEDC, Connected Nation
- Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, CEDC

The foregoing are the minutes of the June 15, 2023, meeting of the FCC's Communications Equity and Diversity Council.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I have reviewed the above minutes dated June 15, 2023, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are accurate and complete.

Respectfully submitted,

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