



Digital Ecosystem Forum

Sponsored by the

**Communications Equity and Diversity Council
Diversity and Equity Working Group
Federal Communications Commission**

March 6, 2023

Speaker and Panelist Bios

Introduction

Diana Coho, FCC

Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Opening Speaker

**Christopher Wood, Executive Director
LGBT Technology and Partnership Institute*
CEDC Diversity and Equity Working Group Chair**



Christopher Wood is an entrepreneur in every sense of the word; author, speaker, adjunct professor, Executive Director & co-founder of two national non-profits, President & Founder of one regional non-profit, and COO of a small international business with B2B and B2C customers.

In 2012, Mr. Wood co-founded a new non-profit, the LGBT Technology Partnership which focuses on advocacy for LGBT individuals and communities as it relates to technology and the policies that govern it. Through Mr. Wood's leadership, the organization has met with and continues to work with several

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Fortune top 20 technology, social media, and nonprofit organizations. The organization has also met with several government agencies including the White House and the Federal Communications Commission.

In 2014, Mr. Wood led the launch of another non-profit to work with the LGBT Technology Institute. The Institute is a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization conducting cutting-edge research at the intersection of LGBT communities and technology and creates resources, tools, and programs to support LGBT communities.

In 2017, Mr. Wood was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment for a two-year term. Mr. Wood was appointed for a second term in 2019 and has served the committee for a total of four years.

In 2015, Mr. Wood started another company with his husband, Redwood & Co. Serving as the Chief Operating Officer, together with several employees, Mr. Wood and his husband have grown their business from a small retail storefront to an international B2B and B2C business selling home fragrance, bath & body, and home décor. They are currently distributed in over 150 locations across the U.S. and have a flagship store in Staunton, Virginia.

In 2018, Mr. Wood noticed a serious lack of LGBTQ+ services available in the Shenandoah Valley of Central Virginia. In July 2018, he founded the Shenandoah LGBTQ Center and Staunton Pride. To date, he has led the organization as the Founder and past President and has grown it into an organization with over 5 committees working from Winchester, Virginia to Roanoke, Virginia serving the LGBTQ+ community with the support they need the most.

Previously, Mr. Wood served as a consultant to national LGBT organizations on various projects including transgender economic development programs. In this capacity, Mr. Wood provided project planning and strategic guidance to groups developing programs around jobs, legal programs, intake processes, localized statistics, and employer/employee training opportunities. His work has assisted several transgender communities across many US cities to move transgender assistance programs to the next level.

Prior to that, Mr. Wood worked at Discovery Communications creating social media and strategic marketing campaigns directed toward rural and LGBT communities. As part of his strategic campaigns, he was responsible for directing outreach programs at various LGBT Pride festivals across the country. From this work and previous experience, Mr. Wood brings a keen understanding of the needs of local LGBT organizations and how best to connect with them.

Mr. Wood has also owned a successful marketing consulting practice with clients such as the Washington Blade and Blackbarn Media to name a few. Mr. Wood joined his client, the Washington Blade, an LGBT newspaper, as the full-time marketing manager. In that capacity, Mr. Wood worked on creating strategic partnerships with various local and national LGBT organizations for advertising, events, and outreach.

Opening Remarks

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel



Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel believes that the future belongs to the connected. She works to promote greater opportunity, accessibility, and affordability in our communications services in order to ensure that all Americans get a fair shot at 21st century success. She believes strong communications markets can foster economic growth and security, enhance digital age opportunity, and enrich our civic life.

From fighting to protect net neutrality to ensuring access to the internet for students caught in the Homework Gap, Jessica has been a consistent champion for connecting all. She is a leader in spectrum policy, developing new ways to support wireless services from Wi-Fi to video and the internet of things. She also is responsible for developing policies to help expand the reach of broadband to schools, libraries, hospitals, and households across the country.

Named as one of POLITICO's 50 Politicos to Watch and profiled by InStyle Magazine in a series celebrating "women who show up, speak up and get things done," Jessica brings over two decades of communications policy experience and public service to the FCC. Prior to joining the agency, she served as Senior Communications Counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, under the leadership of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV and Senator Daniel Inouye. Before entering public service, Jessica practiced communications law in Washington, DC.

She is a native of Hartford, Connecticut. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University and New York University School of Law. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband and two children.

Presentation: “*Current Landscapes of the Future of Work and Impacts on Underserved Communities*”

**Dr. Angela Jackson, Founder
Future Forward Strategies**



Dr. Angela Jackson is a Future of Work and Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) expert. As the founder of Future Forward Strategies, a labor market intelligence, design thinking, and strategy firm, Dr. Jackson has worked with entrepreneurs, F100s and policymakers on the ever-changing future of work. She also serves as lecturer on entrepreneurship in education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She previously served as the Chief Ecosystem Innovation Officer at Kapur Enterprises, Managing Partner at New Profit, and was herself an entrepreneur, founding the Global Language Project. As a leading voice in the future of workspace, she has deep knowledge of technological trends that are transforming organizations and human capital infrastructure necessary for corporations to maintain competitiveness.

Dr. Angela Jackson has been a senior advisor to over 100 workforce EdTech startup organizations. She has used her deep domain expertise to transform portfolio company's talent and sales functions in order to drive growth, scale, and liquidity events. She works with executive teams to connect social impact outcomes to broader business goals, proving that business is a critical platform for change. Dr. Jackson currently serves as a board member and advisor to several private and nonprofit boards: Arena Analytics, Guild Education, Freedom Learning Group, Beyond 12 and Education Design Lab.

Dr. Jackson holds a doctoral degree from Harvard University where her research focused on using capital deployment as a lever in service of systems change. She also holds business, marketing and journalism degrees and certifications from University Missouri-Columbia and INSEAD Business School.

Dr. Jackson is passionate about modernizing the public education to career system and advancing academic and professional opportunities for women, veterans and people living in disinvested communities.

Panel 1: Your Role in the Digital Ecosystem

Moderator

**Rosa Mendoza, Founder, President and CEO
ALLvanza***



Rosa Mendoza is the Founder, President and CEO of ALLvanza and it is her vision, experience, both personally and professionally, and knowledge of underserved communities that gave birth to the organization and set the tone for the organization's critical mission of ensuring Latinos and other underserved communities have an equal opportunity for success in our technology-driven world.

Rosa's own experience as a first-generation college student incited her passion and gives her the insight to advocate for this equal opportunity.

Prior to founding ALLvanza, Rosa served as the Executive Director of the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership (HTTP) where she informed administration officials, congressional staff, state and local representatives and other stakeholders on how telecommunications and technology policy issues impacted the Latino community. She represented HTTP at meetings, conferences, conventions, and industry gatherings. Rosa expertly analyzed telecommunications and technology policy to develop advocacy briefs that brought the needs of Latinos to the forefront.

Prior to joining HTTP, Rosa served as the Manager of Special Projects for The Raben Group, where she assisted clients with coalition building, strategic planning, and research, with a particular focus on the firm's LatinStrategies division. Rosa worked with clients such as MasterCard and Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary.

Formerly, Rosa served as the Assistant Finance Director for Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX). As the primary point of contact for Congressman Cuellar, Rosa communicated with donors and constituents, coordinated fundraising events and managed logistics.

Previously, Rosa was hired as the Media Relations Executive for the Hispanic Communications Network (HCN), which designs customized radio, television, and print media campaigns for the Latino market. In this role, Rosa built relationships with media affiliates, assisted with program development, and helped execute the firm's large-scale media campaigns.

Before coming to Washington D.C., Rosa was the Coordinator for the Chicano/Latino Cultural Center and the Principal Assistant to the director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services at Washington State University.

Rosa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations and a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration from Washington State University.

Panelists

**Bridgette Daniel Corbin, CEO
Wilco Electronic Systems, Inc.***



Brigitte will provide insights gained from the perspective of how small businesses can create and leverage workforce development of smart home and commercial real estate electronic security technologies.

Brigitte Daniel Corbin is the Chief Executive Officer of Wilco Electronic Systems, a family founded integrator of intelligent security access technologies. For over 40 years Wilco has been dedicated to providing affordable cable television and broadband services to underserved communities. In addition, Wilco also is a provider of advanced telecom and technology offerings to commercial real estate offices, multifamily/multi-use housing developments, and as well as industrial spaces throughout the Philadelphia region. Under Ms. Daniel's leadership, she spearheaded the historic acquisition of Wilco's cable division to Comcast in 2018 which allowed for the influx of new technologies to enter public housing communities throughout Philadelphia. Ms. Daniel-Corbin has continued the family legacy by successfully pivoting Wilco's focus towards the integration of property tech, IoT (Internet of Things), security surveillance, and cloud based access control platforms as well as the design of low voltage wiring systems that incorporate community engaged workforce development models.

As 2nd generation leadership, Ms. Daniel Corbin is instilling a vision of community impact by fueling Wilco's dedication to the creation of workforce development and job opportunities within the communities it serves. With the understanding that the need for a more tech-reliant workforce will be key, Wilco provides smart tech workforce opportunities that are now augmenting housing markets.

**Adreen Solely, Director
Public Interest Technology
New America**



Adreen Solely is the director of the Public Interest Technology (PIT) program at New America. In 2018, Solely joined New America after twenty years of experience working within higher education and the nonprofit sector.

From 2001 to 2005, she served as the director of educational programs at the City University of New York's JFK, Jr. Institute for Worker Education Program (IWE), overseeing its workforce development and career advancement initiatives to make higher education accessible to low-income workers. This mutually beneficial model saw human service agencies such as United Cerebral Palsy of New York City and Young Adult Institute agree to provide employees completing IWE's credited certificate programs with financial incentives such as a one-time bonus or salary increase, promotions, and/or release time.

After relocating to Los Angeles, Solely accepted a position as a researcher with Worker Education Resource Center, an organization established by the Service Employees International Union Local 721 to provide career path programs for over 22,000 Los Angeles County Department of Health Services workers in public hospitals, health centers, and community clinics. Solely assisted in the development of the plan to identify and provide workforce development and career path programs to meet Los Angeles County's labor needs. Prior to joining New America, she had been working with Mount Saint Mary's University to develop a university-wide process, which tracks monitors, and reports on the employment outcomes of its graduate alumni.

She has a master's in media ecology from New York University and wants to help technologists transform the world for the better.

**Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO
Hispanic Heritage Foundation***



Antonio is president and CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a national nonprofit focused on education, workforce, social impact, and culture. HHF has been recognized by The White House, US Congress, Fortune 500 companies, other nonprofits, and the Government of Mexico presented Tijerino with the Ohtli Award, the highest honor outside of Mexico. Tijerino is also executive producer of the Hispanic Heritage Awards at the Kennedy Center and broadcast on PBS.

Tijerino has made access to tech and broadband as a priority for the organization through innovative programs such as Code as a Second Language (CSL), which has introduced and taught up to 100,000 underrepresented youths to coding; to building a sustainable pipeline of Latinx tech talent placed into internships and fulltime jobs through LOFT Source; incubating tech entrepreneurship for start up ideas; an IBM Skills Build effort in the tech space; and co-produced the first ever Latino-themed Minecraft game called Latinexplorers which included a tech workforce pathways. HHF has also worked with rural regions in increasing access to broadband through homework centers, supporting adoption of existing services, and providing hotspots. On the policy side, through his TechEdquity effort, Tijerino been a has a strong advocate of addressing the inequity in access to tech in education and the workforce which earned him the MMTC's Digital Hero Award. Tijerino also co-founded the LOFT (Latinos On Fast Track) Leadership Institute which provides leadership training for 300 graduating high school seniors across 10 different sectors including Tech, Public Policy, Social Justice, Education, among others.

Tijerino has served on various advisory boards including the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business, University System of Maryland Foundation, Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership (HHTP), National Girls Collaborative, Games for Change, CSforAll, KID Museum, and as a commissioner for America 250.

Tijerino is an "influencer" on LinkedIn and is a spokesperson on important issues of education, immigration, equity, Latinx issues, and youth leadership, among others. He has been honored many times including by the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National PTA, Innovation Award by the Silicon Valley Latino Leadership, Community Service by Hispanics In Philanthropy, among others.

He graduated from the University of Maryland and was honored with a Doctorate of Humane Letters from The Chicago School. Tijerino is also a Salinas Fellow at the Aspen Institute.

Panel 2: Companies' Roles and Efforts to Upskill the Workers of Tomorrow

Moderator

Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO

Hispanic Heritage Foundation (*See Panel 1 Section, above, for Mr. Tijerino's bio*)

Panelists

Michelle D. Gilliard, PhD

Corporate Social Responsibility Leader

IBM Americas



Michelle Gilliard is CSR Leader Americas. Working across the US, Canada, and Latin America she is responsible for regional IBM corporate social responsibility representation and execution of key programs and initiatives to continue advancing IBM's performance and global recognition as a socially responsible and sustainable company. Her portfolio includes growing and advancing IBM's global education and workforce development initiatives including P-TECH, IBM SkillsBuild and STEM Education for Girls, ESG/Sustainability, Volunteerism and Employee Engagement and CSR/ESG Communications across the Americas. She also helps to represent the company in external corporate social responsibility and sustainability organizations, initiatives, collaborations, and events.

Michelle is a national leader in expanding educational and occupational opportunities for underrepresented and underserved populations. Prior to joining IBM, she was Director, US Education and Workforce Department at FHI360 an international human development organization working to improve the health and well-being of people in the United States and around the globe. Michelle oversaw the department's efforts to design and manage comprehensive education and workforce development initiatives with a particular focus on children and youth from historically marginalized communities. The department drives social change through the development and implementation of national programs, and the provision of technical assistance, research, and evaluation.

Previously, Michelle was a partner at Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP), a high engagement philanthropic investment firm focused on improving educational and social outcomes for children and youth in the Greater Washington, DC region. In this capacity, she used significant multi-year growth capital and strategic management to build high performing nonprofit organizations, managed multi-million-dollar portfolios of nonprofit organizations and cross-sector collaborative initiatives. Additional

positions held include senior director at the Walmart Foundation where she led the Foundation's national postsecondary education and workforce development CSR partnerships and giving programs. Postsecondary education strategies included a focus on partnerships with minority serving institutions (HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs and AANAPISIs). She has also held executive level positions in higher education at the Foundation for Independent Higher Education and the Council of Independent Colleges. Michelle holds degrees from the University of Michigan (Ph.D.), Brown University (A.M.), American University (MIS), and the University of Dayton (B.A.). Current board appointments include the American Youth Policy Forum, Goodwill Excel Center Adult Public Charter School in Washington, DC, and Higher Achievement.

**Anisa Green, Director, Federal Regulatory
Chief of Staff – EVP, Federal Regulatory Relations & Chief Regulatory Officer, Corporate
External & Legislative Affairs
AT&T Services, Inc.***



Anisa Green, Director – Federal Regulatory, has over 24 years of experience and expertise in regulatory, legal and advocacy work. She is based in the AT&T DC office on the External & Legislative Affairs Federal Regulatory team currently working on universal service regulatory issues, with a focus on consumer broadband affordability, digital equity, and rural healthcare matters. She also serves as Chief of Staff for the EVP and Chief Regulatory Officer. During her career – she’s not only gained a wealth of knowledge in the telecommunications, media, and technology field, she has made enriched her network along the way.

Her commitment to serving her community is integral to her work. She champions various organizations focused on empowering, encouraging and educating the youth, women, and marginalized communities, including AT&T’s External & Legislative Affairs Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, Women of AT&T, FCBA, FCBA Diversity Pipeline Committee, FCBA Foundation, FCC’s Equity and Diversity Council, Genesys Works, Crittenton, Girls Who Code, Junior Achievement, the NETWORK Black Integrated Communications Professionals, Women in Technology, Women in Cable Telecommunications, Year Up and many others. She has mentored and sponsored aspiring leaders on their way to career success while maintaining humility, candor, and perspective. She also started her own personal styling and event planning business to help people feel better about themselves and always have a good time doing it.

Hailing from Brooklyn, NY with roots in West Indies, Anisa finished her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Communication at the George Washington University, became a certified paralegal and has taken numerous continuing legal education credits to further her knowledge in TMT. When she is not running after her children and caring for her family, she takes advantage of a few stolen moments by shopping, reading a book, catching a movie, or taking a long walk/ride.

**Hector Mujica, Head of Economic Opportunity
Google.org, Americas**



Hector Mujica leads economic opportunity efforts at Google.org—Google’s philanthropy—across the Americas. Within his role, he looks after a \$100M+ grantmaking portfolio that supports interventions which aim to provide pathways to digital economy jobs for individuals with multiple barriers to employment.

Hector also serves on Google’s Latino Leadership Council, where he helps to steward Google’s social impact ventures with the Latino community.

Hector has spent the last decade advancing social justice through philanthropy and public policy. Prior to Google, Hector’s experience ranged from investment banking at Oppenheimer & Co, constituent casework at the Office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and diplomatic relations at the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Hector holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Business from Florida International University, a Professional Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and a Master of Public Affairs from the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

Outside of work, Hector Co-Chairs the Latino Digital Success Task Force at the Aspen Institute and serves on the Board of Directors of Hispanics in Philanthropy, the Hispanic Federation, and several advisory boards, including WorkingNation and Inicio Ventures. Hector currently resides in South Florida.

Panel 3: Public and Private Sector Synergy to Employ the Workers of Tomorrow

Moderator

Jenna Alsayegh, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships
USTelecom*



Jenna Alsayegh is Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships at USTelecom – The Broadband Association. She manages relationships with advocacy organizations and industry stakeholders to advance policies related to expanding the reach of connectivity. She also coordinates the association’s advocacy around state-level legislation impacting the broadband industry. Jenna serves on the Federal Communications Commission’s Communications Equity & Diversity Council working group focused on diversity and equity as well as the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Education Committee.

With over 10 years of public affairs experience, Jenna previously worked as a Senior Associate at the Dewey Square Group where she provided strategic communications and grassroots support to a variety of clients in the private and non-profit sectors. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Franklin & Marshall College. She currently resides in Washington, DC.

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Panelists

**Michaeljohn Green, Deputy Director of Economic Development
Miami, Dade County**



Michaeljohn Green is the Deputy Director of Economic Development for Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava to help guide the county’s post-pandemic recovery and boost “future ready” economic development. Green previously worked as vice president and director of community development at the Dade County Federal Credit Union, where he helped to create the RISE Miami-Dade Fund. The fund has provided \$20 million in low-interest loans to Black-owned small and micro-businesses across the county since COVID-19’s onset.

His background in banking and financial management also includes stints with the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, BMO Private Bank, Justine Petersen, Microsoft, and Bank of America.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in management information systems from Harris Stowe University.

This year, Legacy Magazine named him one of the “40 Most Powerful and Influential Black Business Leaders in Miami-Dade,” according to a Miami-Dade press note.

**Allyson Mitchell, General Manager
Mohawk Networks**



Allyson Mitchell is the GM of Mohawk Networks, LLC, an ISP owned by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Section 17 Holding Company, the Tewathahonni Corporation. Mitchell is responsible for the long-term success of the fiber and wireless broadband provider, certified as an 8(a) entity by the Small Business Administration. The community's adoption trajectory of broadband increased at a rate that impacted reliability of the first-generation network, and in her role, she has focused on investing in the core network, adding redundancy, capacity and higher availability to secure infrastructure for the community of Akwesasne, its tribal members, and the future demands of the next generation.

Distance learning, virtual healthcare and e-commerce demands drive the strategic direction of the company, delivered by a highly skilled workforce. Under Mitchells' leadership, the company has steadily focused on economic diversification, sustainability and influencing tribal broadband priorities for Indian Country.

Mitchell represents the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe as an appointee on the FCC's Native Nations Communications Task Force, as a Board Member for the Native American Contractors Association and the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club.

Fireside Chat: “The Role of Non-Traditional Anchor Institutions”

Moderator

**Melody Spann Cooper, Chair and CEO
Midway Broadcasting Corporation***



Melody Spann Cooper is a second-generation owner of Midway Broadcasting Corporation, a best-in-class African American and female-owned media company whose properties include radio and digital platforms. The company provides culturally relevant content to Chicago’s thriving Black and Latino populations.

Midway Broadcasting assets include its flagship property, WVON, the oldest Black-oriented radio station in Chicago. With its Black talk format, the station has been a leading source of information and community empowerment for nearly 60 years. In 2007, Spann Cooper expanded the company’s assets, with the development of WRLL Radio, Chicago’s Home for Hispanic Independent Broadcasters. And in October 2020 she oversaw the launch of Midway Broadcasting’s OTT Digital Streaming Network, VON-tv, (*pronounced Vaughn*) which can be seen on ROKU, Apple TV plus, Amazon Prime and at V-O-N DOT TV.

Spann Cooper serves on numerous professional and civic boards including as Chair of the Illinois Broadcasters Association; as executive committee member of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters; as Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Council for the Obama Presidential Center, and as Commissioner of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

In 2019, she added “author” to her list of accomplishments with the release of her first book, *The Girlfriend’s Guide to Closing the Deal*. It’s a semi-biographical book for women in business on how to tap into your innate power and purpose to get the deal done.

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Guest Speaker

Dr. Jon P. Gant

Professor and Dean, School of Library and Information Sciences

North Carolina Central University

Subject Matter Expert, Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group, CEDC



Dr. Jon Gant is a leader in higher education who helps to make information and digital technologies accessible for everyone. Jon has led ground-breaking research with his colleagues that continues to help communities bridge the digital divide and improve access to the Internet. Jon's research helped advance the digital transformation of public sector organizations and examine the future of work and information technology in manufacturing. Jon and his colleagues from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill recently received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the Nutrition for Precision Health study to develop approaches for using artificial intelligence to improve health outcomes from more effective dietary routines. Jon served as the founding director of the Center for Digital Inclusion (CDI) at the School of Information at the University of Illinois. While leading CDI, Jon and his colleagues received funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program to start up a university led public-private partnership that deployed a gigabit fiber network designed to serve households and business in Champaign and Urbana, IL. Jon led the strategy to connect underserved households located in internet deserts within the community. Jon led the CDI team to develop technical assistance models to help community anchor institutions worldwide use digital navigator models to scale up digital literacy training to over 17,000 people.

Using the lessons learned from these experiences, Jon is keenly focused on improving access to the digital skills and competencies of individuals needed to meeting emerging workforce and educational needs in our society. Currently, as dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University, Jon leads the only accredited graduate program in the information field offered by a historically Black college and university in the US. Jon has helped to double its enrollment to over 330 graduate students while working nationally to advance how graduate programs in the information and library science field meet critically needed digital skills and competencies in today's workforce and research enterprises.

Jon has also utilized this experience to serve on several advisory boards to make recommendations to the National Science Foundation, Federal Communication Commission, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to address the digital divide and broadband adoption. Jon was recently appointed to the

Federal Communication Commission's Communications Equity and Diversity Council to examine critical diversity and equity issues across the tech sector. Jon serves on the Kettering Foundation's National Issues Forum Board of Directors. Jon was formerly the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Telecommunication Policy Research Conference (TPRC). Jon research and public engagement is funded through NIH, NSF, NTIA, IBM, State Farm Insurance, IMLS, OECD, ITU, among other organizations.

Jon received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Carnegie Mellon University where he trained in public policy and management. Jon earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. He has held faculty positions in information systems and public administration previously at the University of Illinois, Syracuse University, and Indiana University.

Panel 4: How Are Non-Traditional Anchor Institutions Accelerating Digital Adoption and Upskilling

Moderators

**Aama Nahuja, Legal Counsel
A Wonder Media Company, LLC***



Aama Nahuja (or Nahuja, as she prefers to be called) is the in-house Legal Counsel for A Wonder Media Company LLC and its subsidiaries: American Urban Radio Networks LLC and Superadio Networks LLC. Her responsibilities include contract development and negotiations and other legal matters with which the companies are engaged. She also serves as the Co-Lead of Workstream #3 of the Diversity and Equity Working Group, under the FCC Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC).

Previously, Attorney Nahuja served as Associate Counsel for the Center for Law & Social Justice in Brooklyn, New York, and as Confidential Law Clerk for The Honorable John T. Curtin in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. She has served on the faculties of the Vanderbilt University School of Law and the City University of New York School of Law.

Attorney Nahuja holds an earned LL.M. degree from Louisiana State University, a J.D. degree from SUNY-Buffalo, an M.L.S. degree from Case Western Reserve University, and a B.A. degree from Oberlin College with a major in government. She is married to Kofi Lomotey and is the mother of three and the grandmother of five.

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**Dr. Cathy Schubert, Fellow
American Geriatric Society***



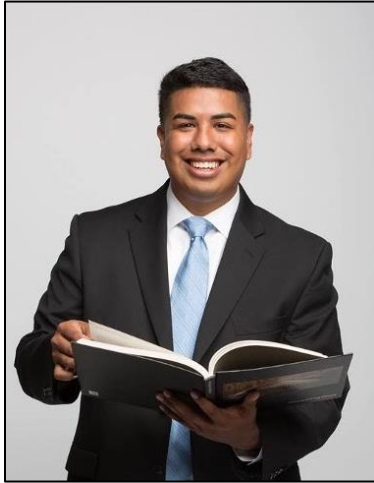
Cathy C. Schubert, MD is a geriatrician who has devoted her medical career to caring for underserved older adults. As the Director of Geriatrics for Indiana University and the Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics at the R. L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, one of her areas of expertise is implementing, studying, and sustaining innovative models of geriatric medical care. Dr. Schubert's current research is utilizing mobile communications technology in a home-based geriatric care management program so that its clinicians can conduct home visits and comprehensive geriatric assessments virtually. The goal of the project is to develop a sustainable infrastructure that will increase the efficiency of the care management program and foster expansion of its reach beyond the Indianapolis metropolitan area to older adults living in rural areas of Indiana and beyond.

Her work with the CEDC's Diversity and Equity Working Group has brought her invaluable perspective on the many challenges of achieving digital equity for myriad underserved populations, and she has enjoyed serving with the Working Group as the representative from the American Geriatrics Society.

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Panelists

**Adan Gonzalez, Founder
Puede Network**



Adan Gonzalez, is from Dallas, Texas, and is currently serving as a White House Fellow. As the son of immigrants, Adan values the power of education. He graduated from Georgetown University, majoring in Government with a minor in Education, Inquiry and Justice while working for the U.S Department of Education. He earned a Masters in Education Leadership at Columbia University and a Masters in Education Policy and Management from Harvard University.

Adan has engaged with students and parents globally to advocate for the importance of higher education, parental support, and community involvement. He has served his local community as a teacher and Director of School & Family Partnerships.

He is the Founder of Puede Network, a family empowerment organization that provides underserved minority students – many from Dallas’ Oak Cliff neighborhood where Adan grew up and continues to live -- with transformative programming encompassing; academics, health and nutrition, community stewardship, recreational athletics, and socio-emotional support.

Adan served as the captain of the Georgetown University Boxing team and won the US National Collegiate Championship. Adan is a US Congressional Gold Medalist, Jefferson National Public Service Awardee, Coors Light National Latino Leader of the Year, Gates Millennium Scholar, and National Coca-Cola Scholar.

Adan enjoys being a youth soccer and boxing coach in his spare time and aspires to make his family proud.

**Jake Heffington, Executive Director
Diversify Architecture**



Jake Heffington is the Founder and Principal Architect of *...and other works* in Durham, NC, a Professor of Practice at North Carolina State University in the College of Design, and the Founder and Executive Director of Diversify Architecture, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit transforming the professions that design our world - inspiring and supporting BIPOC Architects and Designers so that the future of our communities belongs to everyone.

**Dr. Yolanda Majors, Founder and CEO
Hurston Institute**



Yolanda J. Majors, PhD, is Founder and CEO of The Hurston Institute for Learning & Development. In this role, Dr. Majors oversees and coordinates the institute’s national relationships with key external constituencies, including local and national K-12 school districts, centers for STEM based learning, policy makers, non-governmental agencies, educational foundations, industry associations, international corporations, and research institutions. The functional areas of data-driven research and evaluation, child and youth development, workplace learning & development, diversity and inclusion, performance tracking and evaluation, and instructional design are part of her professional portfolio.

Dr. Majors has been an Assistant Professor of Education at The University of Georgia, Athens, Associate Professor of Education with the University of Illinois, Chicago, and Visiting Associate Professor of Education with the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with her most recent academic role as Associate Director of the Minnesota Center for Reading Research.

She has 23 years of experience focusing on how people learn within and across K-12, and non-school based learning experiences. Dr. Majors has led the design, implementation, and evaluation of a variety of institutional learning programs, with a goal of understanding how individuals and organizations transform through social, institutional, and cultural engagements.

**Kristelle Siarza, Owner/CEO of Siarza
Founder, Asian Business Collaboration**



Kristelle is a business executive, non-profit founder, and entrepreneur with over a decade of experience in digital communications and leadership. In 2014, she founded Siarza – a 360-degree digital, public relations and advertising firm that pivots on innovation, curation, and creativity. The company has grown to more than 20 team members working globally for the marketing agency.

Kristelle has consulted for and assisted several organizations with digital marketing and communications strategies for various industries, like health, finance, cannabis, retail, and government. Her team has helped clients generate millions of impressions and Siarza’s award-winning campaigns have received local and national recognition.

As a proud Filipina, Kristelle founded the Asian Business Collaborative (ABC) to support Asian business owners – an often underrepresented group in the business community. After identifying a lack of small business support to Asian-owned businesses during the 2020 pandemic, the “non-profit in the making” was formed to focus on prosperity with a cultural competency lens. ABC programs provide advocacy and support, and the organization has helped over 300 Asian-owned businesses in New Mexico and Texas.

Kristelle believes in giving back to the community with time and effort. Civic leaders like Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque and Mayor Gregg Hull of Rio Rancho have trusted Kristelle with serving the community on economic development task forces. She currently serves as a board member for the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, Domestic Violence Resource Center, the Bosque School parent association, and a member of the Sunset Memorial Park board. Kristelle was honored as one of NM’s ‘Forty Under 40,’ and received the “Women of Influence” award. In 2023, Siarza became one of the newest members of The Change Agencies, the first and only national network of independently owned public relations firms focused on inclusive and authentic communications to multicultural and LGBTQ communities.

In her spare time (what is that?), she’s a sub-par competitive golf and kickball player. Kristelle’s social media feed is loaded with hot air balloons, as she crews for several Albuquerque balloon pilots. She has a baritone-playing, anime-loving son named Johnathan, an incredibly patient and loving fiancé named Spencer, and a cat innovatively named... Kitty.

**Dr. Fallon Wilson, Vice President of Policy
Multicultural Media Telecom and Internet Council**



Through her work with nonprofits, academia, and government partnerships, Dr. Fallon S. Wilson strives to make visible the work of historic and modern-day Black crises solvers. She invests her time into strengthening the tech ecosystem nationwide, especially as it relates both to Black women technologists and also underrepresented persons of color who may not have access to the ever-changing arena of technology. Her TEDx–Nashville presentation of Stop Ignoring Black Women and Hear of Our Tech Prophecies eloquently addresses the intersection of historical reality for Black women, spirituality, and technology. Her work aims to end the great technical divide that exists between the races, while also seeking to put an end to misconceptions about the abilities and skills of Black people that allow the perpetuation of said divide. Dr. Wilson acts with a strong lens of equity and tech inclusion within tech ecosystems for positive workforce outcomes.

As the Lead Principal Investigator for #BlackTechFutures Research Institute, which she co-founded with Melissa Brown-Sims, M.A., Dr. Wilson engages in community action that creates change in her community and across the US. Currently, The Institute’s work, funded in part by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's 2020 Open Knowledge grant, builds a national network of city-based researchers and practitioners conducting research on sustainable local Black tech ecosystems, especially within underrepresented communities. Her research and projects include the design and implementation of Smart City models. Prior to launching the #BlackTechFutures Research Institute, as Research Director for Black Tech Mecca, Dr. Wilson developed the SMART Black Tech Ecosystem Assessment Framework.

Dr. Wilson represents as the Vice President of Policy for the Multicultural Media and Telecommunication Internet Council (MMTC) through which she launched a national campaign, “Black Churches 4 Broadband” to support digital access in Black communities and later launched, Black Churches 4 Digital Equity. In this action, she brings Internet and technological accessibility to students, workers, business, and families, which remains essential for success and inclusion in the ever-evolving automated world. She serves as a Board Member of the State of Tennessee’s Future of Work Taskforce and previously Co-Chaired Nashville’s smart city plan, Connected Nashville. As a former member of the Federal Communications Commission's Communications Equity and Diversity Council, Dr. Wilson chaired the Digital Inclusion and Anchor Institution Subgroup. Currently, Dr. Wilson serves on the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD)’s Digital Opportunity Taskforce,

** indicates a member of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council*

Advisory Board member of Digital Black Religion Project, and is a 2022 Mosaic Women in Policy PPI Fellow. Recently, in November 2022, her organization, #BlackTechFutures Research Institute was selected to be a member of the World Economic Forum's Edison Alliance. Given her commitment to building a national and global black tech ecosystem, in October 2022, she was one of six women policy makers invited to attend PPI Congressional Delegation to Europe to discuss how countries are addressing digitalization.

Given her tech activism, Dr. Wilson received the 2017 International Society for Technology Education's Digital Equity Award, the 2018 Nashville Cable Power of Inclusion Award, the 2021 National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women's Rising Star in Technology Award, the Hispanic Technology and Telecom Partnership 2021 Tech Innovadores, and remains a woman to watch amongst Black women technologists. Additionally, Dr. Wilson's research on first-generation Black college students' alternative tech pathways and Black tech ecosystems has garnered notable research grants from Kapor Center, the Kauffman Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, among others. Recently, in February 2023, Dr. Wilson received two Webby Anthem Awards for her Black Churches 4 Digital Equity National Affordable Connectivity Program Day of Enrollment and #BlackTechFutures Research Institute's 2022 Black Tech Policy Week.

During the pandemic, Dr. Wilson launched Nashville's Digital Inclusion and Access Taskforce to address the effects of the pandemic and the digital divide on communities of color. In just seven months, she raised the necessary funds and launched a mixed-method city-wide assessment of digital inclusion related to internet connectivity in the city of Nashville and the county of Davidson. Because of her great work to support tech equity through a much needed Black tech movement, she has cemented her role as a modern-day civil rights tech activist.

Dr. Wilson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Spelman College and from the University of Chicago, two degrees, a Master of Arts in Political Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Service Administration. As a Public Interest Technologist, she discusses race, gender, faith, and civic tech issues through her writing and presentations. Find her on Twitter @SistahWilson.

Additional Resources for Upskilling and Anchor Institutions

Charlyn Stanberry, Vice President, Government Relations National Association of Broadcasters*



Charlyn Stanberry is the Vice President of Government Relations. She joins NAB after serving as chief of staff for Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09), for whom she previously served as legislative director and counsel. She is also an adjunct professor for Florida International University's Honors College teaching their Washington, D.C. seminar course.

Charlyn has also served as vice president of External Affairs for Net Communications, counsel for the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council and as a professional staff member for the Congressional Black Caucus. She served as a regional voter protection director in Florida for the 2016 Hillary for America Campaign.

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Charlyn serves in leadership capacities for several philanthropic organizations, including the National Bar Association, Junior League of Washington, and the White Dress Project. In 2022, she received the Hall of Fame award from the Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association. In 2021, she received the ICON Talks Visionary award for her work in promoting multiculturalism and diversity in the media and was named Outstanding Woman Lawyer in Politics by the National Bar Association's Women Lawyers Division.

Charlyn holds a J.D. from Florida International University's College of Law and a B.S.B.A. and M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida.

Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO Hispanic Heritage Foundation*

(See Panel 1 Section, above, for Mr. Tijerino's bio)

Closing Remarks

**Christopher Wood, Executive Director
LGBT Technology and Partnership Institute*
CEDC Diversity and Equity Working Group Chair**

(See Welcome Remarks Section, above, for Mr. Wood's bio)

**Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer
Communications Equity and Diversity Council
Media Bureau**

** indicates a member of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council*