

June 21, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

Thank you for this awesome opportunity to Chair the Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC). It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve with the committed and experienced individuals you selected for the CEDC.

It is my honor to forward the final reports and recommendations of the CEDC that were adopted on June 15, 2023: Below is a list of the reports and recommendations:

- A Report titled *Connecting Opportunity Communities to Broadband During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned and Recommendations* submitted by the Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group
- *Access to Capital* Report and Recommendations submitted by the Innovation and Access Working Group
- A report titled *America's Digital Transformation Urgent National Priority and Opportunity: Digital Upskilling* submitted by the Innovation and Access Working Group
- A report on the *Future of Work and Non-traditional Anchor Institutions* submitted by the Diversity and Equity Working Group
- A report on *Enhancing Media Ownership and Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Minorities and Women* submitted by the Diversity and Equity Working Group

The CEDC also recommends that the Commission share the reports and recommendations with other federal agencies, including the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the White House, and other entities that are responsible for administering funds for broadband deployment and digital equity.

These reports and recommendations are the culmination of months of hard work by the Council members and the leadership of the Working Group Chairs, Dr. Dominique Harrison, Chris Wood, and Robert Brooks, along with multiple workstream leads. They took the lead in facilitating interviews, public events, and town hall meetings with multiple stakeholders, from community leaders to industry experts, state broadband directors, foundations, school district leaders, HBCUs, faith-based organizations, small, minority, and women business owners, concerned citizens, and representatives of marginalized groups. They actively sought out their perspectives and listened attentively to their experiences, challenges, and aspirations.

Many thanks to Vice Chairs Dr. Nicol Turner Lee for her outstanding expertise in guiding conversations and her contributions to writing reports and to Susan Au Allen for her guidance and steadfast passion for delivering products that truly help to move the needle for digital equity. Thanks to Holly Saurer and other FCC staff members who took the time to support the CEDC.

Last, I am eternally grateful for our Designated Federal Officers (DFOs) Jamila Bess Johnson, Diana Coho, and Ashley Tyson, along with our former DFOs Rashann Duvall, Keyla Hernandez, and Aurelie Mathieu. Without these ladies providing their expert guidance on advisory group requirements and a

great deal of patience, we would not be delivering these reports today. This time was particularly challenging for them (and of Nicol, Susan, and I, as CEDC Chairs), considering the size of the council and the many members new to this process. They worked diligently to ensure we met our timeline, conducted meetings appropriately, and finished the work. Kudos to these ultimate professionals.

Once again, thank you, Madam Chairwoman, for the opportunity to represent our organizations and the millions who deserve equitable broadband access. The next CEDC has an awesome responsibility to continue this work and bring new and innovative ideas for the Commission's consideration.

Sincerely,

**Heather Gate**

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