

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN WORKSHOP
LOW ADOPTION AND UTILIZATION - IMPORTANCE OF
BROADBAND AND APPLICATIONS

Washington, D.C.

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ANDERSON COURT REPORTING
706 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone (703) 519-7180 Fax (703) 519-7190

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 BRIAN DAVID, Moderator
3 Adoption and Usage Director, Omnibus Broadband
4 Initiative

4 CHARLES M. DAVIDSON
5 Director, Advanced Communications Law & Policy
6 Institute at New York Law School

6 VALERIE FAST HORSE
7 Director of Information Technology, Coeur d'Alene
8 Tribe

8 DOUGLAS A. LEVIN
9 Deputy Executive Director, National Association of
10 State Boards of Education

10 STACI PIES
11 Director Government and Regulatory Affairs, Skype

11 JAY H. SANDERS
12 President and CEO, Global Telemedicine Group

13 CRAIG SETTLES
14 Founder and President, Successful.com

14 SHARON STROVER
15 Philip G. Warner Regents Professor in
16 Communication and Chair of the Radio-TV-Film
17 Department, University of Texas at Austin

17 NICOL TURNER-LEE
18 Vice President, Joint Center for Political and
19 Economic Studies, and Director, Media and
20 Technology Institute

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

2 MR. DAVID: Okay. I think we're ready
3 to go. I wanted to welcome everyone to our second
4 of three adoption panels for today. We had a --
5 actually a really I think fruitful conversation
6 this morning around the data set. Our goal for
7 this conversation is to take it one step further
8 and talk about at the end of the day why this
9 matters, why the topic of adoption and utilization
10 matters.

11 We'll finish the day with, okay, how do
12 we affect this problem. How do we, in February
13 and on an ongoing basis, deliver a plan and a set
14 of policies that shrink the number of people who
15 don't adopt even though they have access and who
16 don't use it, broadband, in a way that is sort of
17 maximally beneficial to them and to society at
18 large?

19 My name is Brian David. I'm on the
20 Broadband Task Force running the Adoption and
21 Usage Team, so one of the three core teams. Think
22 of us as the demand side of the equation. We are

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1 not the supply side of the equation. So I don't
2 want to spend a lot of time today talking about
3 those who are completely unserved. We spent most
4 of last week talking about that. This is a
5 different type of conversation.

6 I'm real excited to have actually a very
7 large panel today. We'll try to keep it lively.
8 We appreciate you all coming from points near and
9 far to spend time with us. I'm not going to
10 introduce each of you. As you make your initial
11 remarks, please introduce yourselves. Maybe
12 before we get started with the panelists, we'll
13 have a -- our Intergovernmental Team introduce
14 themselves and talk about themselves.

15 MS. ZUFOLLO: Sure. Hi, I'm Jessica
16 Zufolo. I'm the Deputy Administrator at the Rural
17 Utility Service within the USDA and I want to just
18 thank you for inviting me here. Brian David,
19 Jennifer McKee, Chairman Janikowski, it's really a
20 pleasure to participate in this event.

21 And on behalf of our administrator at
22 RUS, Jonathan Adelstein, and Secretary Vilsack,

1 we're really looking forward to working with
2 everybody at the FCC, as well as, our ongoing
3 partnership with the NTIA and all agencies
4 throughout the U.S. Government to fulfill
5 President Obama's goals as it relates to Broadband
6 deployment in rural and urban America.

7 I just want to make a couple of remarks
8 on what we're doing at RUS and what the specific
9 issues that we're trying to accomplish within the
10 USDA, and meeting those goals, and being part of
11 the team here. We are essentially at USDA focused
12 on building and maintaining infrastructure, an
13 infrastructure investment throughout rural
14 America.

15 USDA has a number of project areas where
16 we are investing in building communities from the
17 ground up, from rural housing projects, rural
18 business loans, community facilities grants that
19 build schools, libraries, childcare facilities, as
20 well as, telecommunications, water, waste water
21 infrastructure, projects, as well as, electric and
22 renewable energy projects.

1 I wanted to highlight for you all today
2 a report that the USDA issued yesterday and we
3 have copies actually on that table over there.
4 It's entitled Broadband Internet Value for Rural
5 America and it's a report that I encourage
6 everybody to take a look at that Vilsack announced
7 yesterday. And it's -- the conclusion is
8 essentially that rural communities with greater
9 Broadband access has greater economic growth than
10 areas with less or no access at all.

11 And the study compares counties that
12 have -- that had Broadband access in 2000 with
13 similarly situated counties that had little to no
14 Broadband access whatsoever. Employment growth
15 was higher and non farm private earnings are
16 greater in counties with a longer history of
17 Broadband availability.

18 In addition, the study concluded that in
19 areas with low population size and relatively high
20 population loss, coupled with demanding terrain
21 and aging populations, that the cost of providing
22 Broadband in these markets were just that much

1 higher and more difficult to attract private risk
2 capital to build facilities in these markets.

3 These demographic realities make it
4 extremely challenging to attract the kind of
5 capital and the kind of investment opportunities
6 that we're trying to encourage here as we try to
7 discuss these issues across the board. The study
8 also concludes that in 2007 only 70% of rural
9 households with in home internet access had a
10 Broadband connection, in 2007, compared with 84%
11 in urban households. So there's somewhat of a
12 disparity that exists and we need to recognize
13 that. This study provides a lot of details about
14 really what's going on and we want to make sure
15 that that's part of the discussion here.

16 In addition to that, in addition to this
17 report, as everybody here knows, the RUS is
18 heavily engaged in partnering with our colleagues
19 at the NTIA in administering Recovery Act funds.
20 We can talk about that in detail but I'd like to
21 just mention that we're working very closely,
22 we've had about ten workshops across the country

1 that I think some of the people in this room and
2 folks across -- throughout the Congress and
3 throughout various stakeholder groups have
4 participated in where we've had a lot of
5 interaction and a lot of comments and really good
6 feedback from stakeholders about how we should be
7 applying the funds and how to really make it --
8 make this, this funding rounds a success, in
9 addition to the success of additional funding
10 rounds that are coming up subsequently.

11 We encourage everybody here at this
12 forum to give us any feedback, ideas; we're open
13 to knowing how and getting your thoughts as to how
14 to do it better. We think this is a great
15 opportunity to have that dialogue.

16 In addition, I just want to mention a
17 couple of other things that we're doing at RUS.
18 We have the Community Connect Ramp Program and
19 we'll be issuing about 13 million grants coming up
20 soon that will fund Broadband projects in the most
21 remote areas. In addition to our Broadband
22 Initiatives Program authorized in the Recovery

1 Act, we have a number of other telecom and
2 Broadband funding opportunities that we've been
3 doing for 60 years. The 60th anniversary of our
4 telecommunications infrastructure and Broadband
5 programs are coming up in October. So we have had
6 a lot of time working with rural America in trying
7 to provide solutions to these issues that we're
8 going to talk about today. So thank you for
9 having me here. It's a pleasure and I look
10 forward to discussing these issues.

11 DR. JEFFERSON: Good afternoon. My name
12 is Francine Jefferson. And in a prior lifetime I
13 was Evaluation Specialist for the Technology
14 Opportunities Program. That program funded well
15 over 600 projects that were targeted toward the
16 adoption and use of Broadband telecommunication
17 applications to public and non profit entities.
18 And if you'd like to take a glimpse of what that's
19 all about, Kate Williams who was on your panel
20 earlier today, spearheaded a project called
21 Technology Opportunities Legacy Project.

22 And all of those data from those

1 projects have been downloaded and digitized and
2 are now made available to the public and for the
3 public research, as well as, going on the NTIA
4 website; you can access those and see those
5 examples, as well as, the evaluations that were
6 done of them, which was my job then, which will
7 tell you all about the barriers, constraints, and
8 opportunities with respect to Broadband
9 utilization and adoption.

10 In this lifetime, I am a
11 Telecommunications Policy Analyst for the
12 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. And
13 as a Telecommunications Policy Analyst, that means
14 I do all of the duties as assigned. My primary
15 focus, however, has been outreach to minority
16 serving institutions to, excuse me, to foster and
17 facilitate an understanding of Broadband and to
18 facilitate a forum for discussion and be a
19 catalyst for partnerships.

20 We held three forums which we titled
21 High Speed, High Stakes, Closing the Digital
22 Divide in Minority Communities. Recently in

1 Birmingham, Alabama, Billings, Montana, and in
2 Albuquerque, New Mexico, where we had a very fine
3 turn out of minority participants and we're very
4 pleased with that and we hope to continue that.
5 And I thank you for the invitation and the
6 opportunity to be a part of this group today. And
7 on behalf of our administration, we thank you and
8 thank you, Jessica and all.

9 SPEAKER: Go ahead, Luke.

10 MR. TATE: Hi, I'm Luke Tate and I'm a
11 Special Assistant to Secretary Sean Donovan,
12 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And
13 at HUD I am currently helping to lead our
14 Broadband efforts. I'd like to thank everybody
15 from the FCC team and Chairman Janikowski in
16 particular for inviting us to attend today. And I
17 just quickly want to note, you know, HUD of course
18 has a direct interest in this conversation,
19 particularly with regard to residents of public
20 and assisted housing, all residents of HUD
21 housing.

22 And in those cases we're most interested

1 in the innovative models and the best practices
2 for delivering Broadband to concentrated
3 populations, i.e., a public housing development at
4 a -- in a cost effective manner. More broadly,
5 the Secretary and HUD are certainly concerned
6 about the fact that, you know, households earning
7 less than \$20,000 a year adopt Broadband only 35%
8 of the time when it's available. And that for
9 households earning less than \$40,000 a year and
10 then again, less than \$20,000 a year, cost is an
11 increasing barrier to them adopting Broadband.

12 So in the broad sense, we're
13 particularly concerned about communities that are
14 often times shut out from other opportunities
15 available and there are metropolitan areas also
16 being shut out from the educational and employment
17 opportunities that are available through
18 Broadband. So to the extent to which you could
19 address those issues and your comments, it would
20 be enormously helpful for HUD, as well as, the FCC
21 process; thank you.

22 MR. DAVID: Okay. So we need to get

1 into two quick logistics things. As you go
2 through your slides please give notice to move the
3 slide forward so that we can stay up with you.
4 Also, for the audience that is here, we'll be
5 passing around cards for questions so feed those
6 out to the aisle and we'll bring those to the
7 floor.

8 I want to make this as data driven as
9 possible. If -- to the degree that I challenge
10 anyone to take it to the next level and make it
11 more definitive, more precise, more data oriented,
12 I apologize in advance. Time is short and we've
13 got a -- of plan and it's difficult to do if we
14 stay vague. So I give that warning in advance.
15 Chuck, do you want to start? Do your introduction
16 and then we'll go around the table?

17 MR. DAVIDSON: Perfect.

18 MR. DAVID: Okay.

19 MR. DAVIDSON: I'm Chuck Davidson with
20 the Advance Communications Law and Policy
21 Institute at New York Law School; I'm the Director
22 of the program. Are we moving into comments or

1 are you having brief introductions from everybody?

2 MR. DAVID: No, you're the first to --

3 MR. DAVIDSON: Okay; perfect. All
4 right; all right. Thank you very much. I'd like
5 to thank Chairman Janikowski, Brian, the entire
6 FCC Commission for having me here today. It's
7 frankly very, very refreshing to see a commission
8 focused on data and policy issues.

9 For those of you that don't know, the
10 ACLP at New York Law School is a public policy
11 program that's focused on analyzing laws and
12 public policies -- the advance communications
13 sector. Our major focus for the past year has
14 been on Broadband, particularly as it relates to
15 senior citizens, people disabilities, the
16 telemedicine sector, and the education sector.

17 Our first few papers reports on senior
18 citizens and on telemedicine are posted on our
19 website. Our next two papers are forthcoming.
20 We're currently in the midst of a comprehensive
21 review of the policy and other barriers to greater
22 adoption and use of Broadband by these groups.

1 And we would like to share those findings with the
2 Commission upon completion, which we expect to be
3 in about three to four weeks.

4 We're also engaging in a number of
5 working partnerships with non profit organizations
6 across the country that are focused on spurring
7 adoption amongst seniors, low income individuals,
8 and others to see what works, what doesn't work.
9 We found amongst seniors for example that the key
10 issue right now is adoption. It's not
11 availability.

12 So what do we know about the senior
13 Broadband demographic? Well right now we've got
14 some 37 million Americans who are over the age of
15 65. The senior population will double in size by
16 the year 2050. While some 63% of all households
17 have adopted Broadband, only 30% of seniors have
18 adopted Broadband. And older seniors are much
19 less likely to adopt Broadband than younger
20 seniors.

21 There are a number of reasons for this
22 adoption gap. A major reason is simply the lack

1 of a home computer. Those over 65 are 21% less
2 likely to own a computer than those under 30.
3 Lack of awareness about Broadband, skepticism
4 about its utility, and concerns about security and
5 identity theft are other reasons that we've found.
6 We've interviewed seniors and senior organizations
7 from across the country and there's just a whole
8 host of reasons.

9 But closing this gap or at least
10 narrowing this gap is critically important. We
11 found that with the seniors and organizations that
12 we've talked to that Broadband is an incredibly
13 empowering and transformative tool for seniors,
14 sort of beyond delivering the benefits that we all
15 see in Broadband; it does a number of other
16 things. For example, it helps stimulate brain
17 exercises and allows seniors to exercise their
18 mental -- as they age. That's very important to
19 a number of older Americans.

20 It facilitates, as we know, interactive
21 communication with family and friends; that
22 staying connected is very, very important for

1 seniors. It enables employment opportunities.
2 According to AARP, some 69% of baby boomers and
3 seniors are willing and able to work past
4 retirement; they want to. But part time work and
5 being able to work at home is critically
6 important. Broadband is essential to enabling
7 those opportunities for older Americans.

8 And Broadband is enabling seniors to age
9 at home for longer. Seniors are using Broadband
10 to research health information for themselves, but
11 they're also using at an increasing basis a range
12 of telemedicine services like networked sensors
13 that provide medical practitioners with real time
14 tracking of vital signs. And it's estimated that
15 by 2012 there will be some three million seniors
16 using these types of in home monitoring systems.

17 So what can be done to help close this
18 gap? Well, comprehensive education and outreach
19 by individual actors, by public private
20 collaborations, by government, is critically
21 important to raising senior awareness. We found
22 that the education and outreach effective programs

1 are the most important when it comes to seniors.

2 Fostering a culture of applied
3 technology and innovation across the country and
4 at every level of government to educate seniors on
5 the benefits of Broadband is important, whether
6 it's through HUD, or the Rural Program, or the
7 FCC. I mean it's really critically important.
8 When they learn it they're like sponges. Older
9 Americans are absorbing this information and when
10 they're tapping into Broadband, when they're
11 trained to use it, they love it; they love it.
12 They stay on the networks and it's really
13 enhancing their lives.

14 So I would say with a quick wrap up that
15 as the FCC moves forward, it's going to be
16 important, I think, to focus not just on what the
17 FCC can do but also what actions can Congress
18 take, what actions can other state actors take,
19 what are the recommendations that should be
20 pursued by policy makers even if the FCC itself
21 might not be the actor on those. Thank you so
22 much.

1 MR. DAVID: Valerie.

2 MS. FAST HORSE: Good afternoon. My
3 name is Valerie Fast Horse and I'm the Director of
4 I.T. for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. And I'd like to
5 thank Jennifer and the FCC for having me here to
6 speak about Broadband as it pertains to tribal
7 people. The Coeur d'Alene Reservation that I come
8 from is in North Idaho and the Reservation covers
9 345,000 acres.

10 We -- the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has an
11 elected government like all tribes do and the
12 government is responsible for managing the land,
13 and the air, and the water, and the infrastructure
14 that cross tribal lands. And even though we're --
15 you want us to talk about data, I think it's also
16 important to realize, you know, why our tribe is
17 where it's at; why were we left behind.

18 When you look at the build out of this
19 nation's telecommunications infrastructure and the
20 invention of the phone, our tribe was still at war
21 with the United States. We weren't thinking about
22 subscribing for a telephone or getting dial tone.

1 You know, we were at war; we were signing peace
2 treaties. We were getting an executive order; we
3 were trying to get our land set aside for our use.

4 So were we left behind, I think so, just
5 a little bit. So in that context, you know, I
6 think that, you know, one of the issues I would
7 like to raise is that when we develop this
8 nation's Broadband strategy and policy, I really
9 think that it would be super to include the tribes
10 and this nation's first Americans in this
11 Broadband policy and to include us in any
12 discussions, especially as we talk about building
13 out communications on our own lands.

14 The Northwest has 55 plus tribes. The
15 tribes have reservations that have coastal lines.
16 The tribes have reservations that border on --
17 have international borders. And so in managing
18 these lands, it's important to realize that this
19 nation's infrastructure is only as strong as its
20 weakest link.

21 So in that context I also want to talk
22 about the availability of Broadband. You know, we

1 -- the infrastructure grants that we have
2 available through the Stimulus I think is a very
3 good head start. But I think as far as putting a
4 Broadband out to not only the tribal nations, but
5 America in general, we need to do more. We need
6 to put out -- this needs to be, you know, very
7 minimum, a down payment, and we need to have more
8 infrastructure grants in the future. I think
9 that's one of the major things.

10 And the other thing is affordability.
11 We have tribal people who might have access to
12 Broadband but they can't afford it. And just to
13 give you an example, we have about 7,000 people
14 who live on our reservation and that equals to
15 about 6,000 households, and we have a broad -- a
16 wireless Broadband ISP that my tribe runs and we
17 only have 550 paid subscribers. That's not
18 because we can't reach only 550, it's because
19 that's how many are willing to pay for Broadband.

20 The rest of them, now you want to say is
21 it important to them, well, some of them it is
22 because in addition to this paid subscribership we

1 have a technology center that has 40 computers, 5
2 Macs, 35 PCs that are half Windows and half Linux,
3 we get about over 2,000 sessions per month who are
4 logged in our center. So people are stopping in;
5 they're using the center. Broadband is important
6 to them for whatever reasons but they can't afford
7 to get it at home so they take advantage of our
8 technology center.

9 I think that as our tribal members
10 become more relaxed with the use of Broadband and
11 it's -- the use of it, that they will adopt it and
12 want to bring it at home, but it has to be
13 affordable. So again, I would like to say that --
14 close by saying that the availability through more
15 infrastructure funds and affordability through
16 possibly universal service reform, I think will
17 help us to bring Broadband to more Americans;
18 thank you.

19 MR. DAVID: Thanks, Valerie. Just one
20 comment I should have made earlier. I've been
21 asked to keep much conversation about NTIA and RUS
22 and the BTOP Programs sort of out of this

1 conversation. We don't have a lot of influence
2 over that and it's important to keep that as a
3 separate dialogue. So to the degree you have a
4 general comment, that's fine, but let's not get
5 too specific about the specific activities over
6 there. Doug?

7 MR. LEVIN: Thank you. My name is Doug
8 Levin. I am Deputy Executive Director of the
9 National Association of State Boards of Education
10 and these are state education policy makers.
11 Personally, I have helped in roles outside of the
12 government to help them craft what have been now
13 three national education technology plans that the
14 U.S. Department of Education has issued since
15 1996.

16 They are currently undertaking an effort
17 to develop a new plan in this Administration. And
18 I hope that there is robust dialogue going on
19 between that agency and this effort. That plan,
20 from the first one forward, have driven enormous
21 change in schools and given my role, I do want to
22 focus my conversation there, being respectful of

1 the fact that there is a session on this topic and
2 in its entirety tomorrow I believe.

3 So in our view, the public K12 System is
4 the best and most direct way to reach children,
5 who by virtue of personal circumstances,
6 misfortune, or geography, are most challenged in
7 realizing a satisfying life, a good job, and
8 active citizenship. But let me talk a little bit
9 about how we frame this in K12 education because I
10 think by and large it is not framed as Broadband
11 problem and those are not the issues that keep our
12 members awake at night, though perhaps it should.

13 There are about 48 million students in
14 public K12 education; 37% or about 17 million of
15 them participate in the free and reduced lunch
16 program, essentially a measure that we use for
17 poverty. 14% or approximately 6 million receive
18 special education services of one type or another
19 and the demographics of the student population in
20 the public system is changing quite dramatically.
21 By 2023 the estimate is that schools will be,
22 public schools will be majority minority.

1 The state of Maryland at this moment is
2 majority minority and there are certainly
3 communities around the country where that is
4 changing. A lot of that has been driven actually
5 by the growth in the Hispanic population. Roughly
6 one fifth of kids in the public system are in
7 rural settings and served in rural communities.
8 But in some respects, one could observe that there
9 is a disproportionately high infrastructure of
10 public schools serving them.

11 About one half of school districts in
12 the nation, and there are about 15,000 school
13 districts, about one half have one or more rural
14 schools in their footprint and approximately one
15 third of all schools are located in rural
16 communities.

17 In education and the conversations that
18 drive our policy making around student achievement
19 and we pay attention to disparities in a few
20 different ways, one between U.S. students and
21 international students, but also -- and we've seen
22 gaps there and troubling gaps where other

1 countries have been catching up or maybe passing
2 us in academic achievement. But also, inequities
3 within our school systems between students of
4 different racial ethnic groups, between general
5 education students and special education students,
6 and there are many reasons for that inequality.

7 And to its credit, this Administration
8 is focusing a lot of its efforts in trying to
9 identify and serve those schools and address those
10 issues. There have also been larger conversations
11 going on about what students should know and be
12 able to do in the future and the notion that
13 Broadband and technology are changing the nature
14 of the workforce and what it is that students
15 should know and be able to do.

16 The second point I'd like to make is
17 that there certainly is a history of programmatic
18 efforts to bring Broadband efforts to bring
19 Broadband to schools and to make good use of it.
20 And that this access builds systematic capacity to
21 better serve all students and I would say that
22 without it, without these investments, without

1 robust Broadband access to schools, these
2 persistent issues will not be addressed.

3 This may not be the language that
4 education -- education policy makers use to talk
5 about it but I promise you that the innovation
6 that they would like to see is not possible
7 without it. Data here are a little be -- and much
8 has not been collected in recent years, but the
9 efforts where people are making investments right
10 now in formal education are around online courses
11 and blended hybrid online and offline courses.

12 E-textbooks and open educational
13 resources, online testing of students, and a
14 tremendous effort to drive decision making through
15 data, both for administrators and policy makers,
16 but also in the classroom at the instructional
17 level. This is simply not possible with robust
18 Broadband access.

19 And finally, and my third point, is that
20 there are opportunities to make a difference and
21 it's through investments in leadership, capacity
22 building, addressing policy barriers, and making

1 investment. It's important to continue to build
2 the capacity of K12 school systems through broad
3 investments in Broadband, but also through direct
4 programmatic efforts.

5 Targeting adverse populations; this
6 should focus on individual student access in and
7 out of school -- for good use, not just for
8 access. And I do understand that maybe beyond the
9 scope of what the FCC can do, but also to connect
10 in and out of school access. To build interagency
11 capacity at the federal and state levels and as
12 well as with the foundation community, and
13 finally, to invest in research and development in
14 a systematic long term way; thank you.

15 MR. DAVID: Thanks Doug. Staci, thank
16 you for coming.

17 MS. PIES: Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID: It's good to have someone
19 who represents one of the most broad applications.
20 We have a lot of what I would say are demographic
21 segments represented here. It's important to get
22 your viewpoint because you sit across a lot of

1 them.

2 MS. PIES: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. DAVID: You know, among all
4 applications on the web, you all stand pretty far
5 out there and so interested in your perspective
6 across demographic segments.

7 MS. PIES: Thank you; I'm excited. Good
8 afternoon. My name is Staci Pies and I'm the
9 Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for
10 Skype. And we thank the Commission for inviting
11 Skype to participate today because we hope that we
12 can share a new vision of Broadband opportunities
13 for America and address issues of interest to the
14 Commission and to all Americans.

15 Skype is a software company founded in
16 2003. Since then, we've grown to over 480 million
17 registered users or -- on the internet without
18 owning any telecommunications infrastructure.
19 Instead, we partner with telecom operators to
20 provide our users with more choices. And to the
21 extent that all networks are equally open, Skype
22 conversations can take place on computers, mobile

1 devices, and Skype certified hardware; next slide.
2 Skype enhances the value proposition for Broadband
3 consumers in numerous ways. Looking through a
4 purely economic lens, Skype can offset consumer
5 spending on communication services. For example,
6 when a consumer is deciding whether or not to
7 purchase Broadband and commit to that monthly
8 cost, he's more likely to do this if he thinks
9 that he can save money elsewhere. Of course, you
10 didn't invite me here to make a product by sharing
11 the features of Skype Software, I hope you'll
12 begin to see the connection between why people
13 subscribe to the underlying broadband service.
14 Why entry by Longtel competitors such as Skype
15 creates consumer welfare gains, and importantly
16 why applications such as Skype are an important
17 part of the broadband ecosystem.

18 When consumers are able to download and
19 use the applications of their choice to the
20 fullest extent of the applications features
21 consumers will subscribe to, stay on, and continue
22 to increase their use of broadband.

1 A very simple example of Skype
2 transcending the value proposition, is the
3 irresistible pull of an application that allows a
4 grandparent to actually see his or her grandchild
5 across the country, or anywhere on the globe for
6 that matter. And all of this without incurring
7 additional cost beyond the computer hardware and
8 the broadband connection.

9 In this way broadband applications that
10 consider -- cater to individual needs drive demand
11 for broadband services from all sorts of people.
12 Encouraging those that might otherwise sit on the
13 sidelines to invest in computers and broadband
14 connections to the internet.

15 A real quick example, and I have many I
16 can share with you. I was at a Psychiatrist Dr.
17 Loren "Olson in Iowa who started using Skype to
18 communicate with his grandchildren, and then
19 realized he could expand access to the healthcare
20 system by visiting his patients virtually. This
21 type of experience drives broadband adoption, and
22 greater utilization of broadband connections.

1 As I said, I could share countless
2 examples with you, but if I leave you with one
3 policy point related to how consumers use Skype
4 it's that to the extent that applications are
5 openly available to consumers across all broadband
6 networks, applications will attract new
7 subscribers, and help define and narrow the
8 adoption gap.

9 A recent survey conducted by Hugh
10 Internet and American Life supports this
11 proposition. The survey shows that many
12 non-broadband users do not subscribe simply
13 because they do not see the value of broadband
14 contributing to the demand gap. And this gap
15 continues to grow. On Monday, Lightman Research
16 Group reported a 29 percent drop in new broadband
17 subscriptions over the last year. The fewest new
18 subscribers in eight years. When you juxtapose
19 this statistic against results from a recent Skype
20 sponsored Zogby International Consumer Survey
21 showing that 67 percent of mobile users want to be
22 able to choose their mobile application

1 themselves, it becomes clear the consumers want
2 greater value and control over their broadband
3 experience. We interpret these statistics as a
4 call to action for all players in the broadband
5 ecosystem, to deliver more of what consumers want
6 and expect, and for the Commission to protect
7 consumers in this way.

8 Skype recognizes the foundational role
9 network operators play in the broadband ecosystem,
10 and without connectivity devices and applications
11 cannot reach their full potential. This does not
12 mean however that network operators should receive
13 special treatment to protect their business
14 models. Instead, the Commission should rightly
15 expect much from these central players, and
16 establish a balanced policy of demand and supply
17 (inaudible)protections. Specifically -- next
18 slide. The Commissions should ensure the same
19 standard of openness across all broadband
20 platforms, wire line, and wireless alike. Once
21 the link between access and software is broken,
22 consumers can take the software to any network

1 platform increasing consumer choice, flexibility,
2 and mobility.

3 The future's an exciting place and we
4 see a world where consumers increasingly demand
5 the broadband experience that enables them to take
6 their chosen application wherever, and whenever
7 they want. But applying different rules to
8 different networks threatens this consumer
9 expectation. The Commission should narrow the
10 adoption gap by maximizing consumer freedom, and
11 adopting policies that treat all networks equally
12 giving Americans the ability to use applications
13 and devices, and importantly the broadband network
14 to their maximum potential.

15 Thank you for giving Skype the
16 opportunity to speak with you today, and to share
17 our vision of the broadband future.

18 MR. DAVID: Thanks Staci, Dr. Sanders?

19 DR. SANDERS: Well good afternoon
20 everyone. I am President Emeritus of the American
21 Telemedicine Association and for full disclosure I
22 am also on the Board of Directors of the Universal

1 Service Administrative Corporation and I chair the
2 Rural Healthcare Committee, but that hat will not
3 be on for my comments.

4 I also want to thank the Commission for
5 this Yogi Berra deja vu all over again moment,
6 because 13 years ago sitting in this room for
7 Chairman Hunt as a member of the Telemedicine
8 Advisory Committee we were debating and discussing
9 these same issues. I want to very much thank the
10 Commission as well as other Government agencies
11 for really having developed the umbilical cord for
12 our healthcare liberty system. And based upon
13 that work and significant modifications in the
14 technology, and the mindset of my colleagues we
15 now need to go from an umbilical cord to a full
16 circulatory system.

17 I think it wouldn't be overstated to say
18 that broadband availability is a matter of life
19 and death for many patients in rural communities,
20 as well as people within urban communities. And
21 the latter really hasn't been underlined enough,
22 but let me point out that when you have a traffic

1 accident, and you're brought in with a crushed
2 chest injury in a rural hospital, you have no
3 access to a trauma surgeon. Today you do.

4 Secondly, if you come in with a stroke,
5 the difference between your walking out of that
6 hospital and not in a rural community has now
7 totally changed, because now we can provide access
8 through telemedicine because of the communication
9 infrastructure to a neurologist who can within the
10 critical three and half to four hour period of
11 time administer thrombolytic therapy. For the
12 neonate in distress we can now bring the
13 neonatologist, for the intensive care unit patient
14 in the rural hospital in septic shock we can now
15 bring the intensiveness. So, this is not a simple
16 issue of access, or convenience, or cost. This is
17 an issue of life and death.

18 Now, one of the things that happened was
19 the dramatic introduction and then migration of
20 the technology, not only from the hospital setting
21 but into the home setting of the patient. One of
22 the things that we hypothesized in the mid '90s

1 was that wouldn't it be better if we could examine
2 our patients in their home, and anticipate their
3 downhill spiral before they end up in the hospital
4 emergency department.

5 So, we developed technology that
6 afforded us the ability to literally examine the
7 patient in the home. And all of a sudden
8 something happened. It wasn't that the technology
9 afforded us the ability to examine our patient in
10 the home, we found out that we -- that when we
11 began to examine them the values we were getting
12 were much better, much more physiological than the
13 values we were getting when we saw them in the
14 office. Fundamentally the examine room has
15 changed, the exam room now has to be where the
16 patient is, not where the doctor is.

17 Taking your blood pressure in my office
18 is absolutely ridiculous. I get a false value.
19 That's why there's so many people diagnosed in
20 this country with hypertension because they have
21 what's called "White Coat Hypertension." Taking
22 that blood pressure at home, or taking that blood

1 pressure where they're working is a much better
2 value. Taking a child's pulmonary functions if
3 they have asthma in my office, also is absolutely
4 ridiculous. Where I need to take their pulmonary
5 functions is in their classroom, and in their
6 home. They breath the air in their classroom and
7 at home. Not the air in my office. The antigens
8 they're responding to are in their home and in
9 their school, not in my office.

10 So, one of the fundamental changes that
11 has occurred in healthcare delivery is to
12 recognize that the exam room needs to be where the
13 patient is, and taking this to it's most logical
14 conclusion, and we've already heard comments about
15 that. And that is that wherever I am I need to be
16 examined.

17 Let me just say one thing that will
18 frighten all of you, but any of you who have
19 recently had a physical exam and been told by your
20 physician that you are normal, I can tell you that
21 you and your physician and you have not the
22 slightest idea whether you're normal, because they

1 took a single point in time measurement, and that
2 is an absolutely ridiculous measurement in terms
3 of progression of disease. When do you become
4 hypertensive? When do you become diabetic? Let
5 me just tell you one single statistic; you begin
6 to develop insulin resistance 13 years before you
7 are diagnosed with diabetes. If we had these
8 wireless medical sensors with a broadband
9 infrastructure, we have the capability to begin to
10 see that trending data.

11 Three critical points, one please look
12 at the slide because this talks about adoption.
13 This was a slide -- a picture that was put on a
14 magazine in April of 1924, showing a young boy at
15 home with his H1N1 influenza being taken care of
16 by his pediatrician. And what is the technology
17 they're using? The most intuitive technology
18 known to the people in those day, which is a
19 message to our technology providers. Your
20 technology needs to be intuitive. This is a
21 radio.

22 Finally, and I know I'm a little bit

1 over time. The reality is that we need to have a
2 dynamic inventory of broadband capacity in this
3 country that is constantly being updated. Number
4 two, we need interoperability, we can't be
5 developing silo's, this needs to work like a
6 utility you walk in the room, and you turn on the
7 light switch, and it is operational. That's the
8 message that I'd like to leave with you, thank
9 you.

10 MR. DAVID: Thank you Dr. Sanders. I'll
11 try not to deliver another Yogi Berra quote in the
12 course of this. Craig?

13 MR. SETTLES: Thank you, good afternoon.
14 My name's Craig Settles and I am the President of
15 Successful.com and one of my primary roles as a
16 business strategist is helping organizations
17 understand how to develop the business case for
18 broadband networks. And from several years
19 working with both rural communities, and urban
20 communities; understanding what their needs are I
21 feel very strongly that the business community --
22 the ability of broadband to impact the

1 effectiveness of how business' operate locally is
2 going to be the key to success of any broadband
3 strategy that can be developed.

4 This goes on two levels. One, the
5 economic engine that we are trying to generate via
6 broadband is going to be driven by the local
7 business community. On the other hand, the issue
8 of sustainability; how will you be able to pay for
9 these networks, and more importantly the ongoing
10 operation of these networks depends on the
11 sustainability. Who the paying customers are, and
12 the bulk of that sustainability model was going to
13 come from the small and mid sized businesses that
14 are in the community today, and which ones they
15 can draw to that community as a result of having
16 broadband.

17 If I look at you know what are the
18 benefits, what is this going to drive them to
19 adoption? One, is going to be their ability to
20 open new markets, both nationally and
21 internationally. It is also the ability to open
22 up new opportunities locally, by being able to

1 provide greater services, a greater array of
2 products, products delivered more effectively and
3 efficiently locally. They open up new
4 opportunities locally to benefit both them as
5 businesses and also the community at large.

6 The other area is that broadband
7 improves the operation of businesses. How well
8 the market, how well they manage their people, how
9 innovatively they come up with solutions to new
10 problems that face them. So, broadband is going
11 to be adopted if you can sell, or you can market,
12 or deliver a technology that meets those primary
13 needs -- next slide please.

14 For a national strategy to matter to
15 small businesses, and again whether we're talking
16 urban or rural. It has to reflect what their
17 needs are. You know we sitting around the table,
18 we don't have the paying point of working in a low
19 income neighborhood, or working in a rural area.
20 Okay, that prospective comes from the businesses
21 in that community, and they need to be part of the
22 discussion.

1 The strategy to be effective also has to
2 take into account technology evolution. If we
3 build what we think is efficient technology for
4 today, it'll be obsolete before its even built
5 out, which does businesses no good.

6 The third area is there has to be local
7 influence on the strategies execution. You cannot
8 build a strategy in Washington, and dictate the
9 execution of that centrally. It has to be
10 structured in such a way that locally both the
11 businesses and the other stakeholders in the
12 community can drive the execution of that adoption
13 plan.

14 Last slide please. In terms of you know
15 truly having an effective strategy, not only do we
16 have to focus on the needs analysis part of the
17 equation, but we also have to establish goals
18 which measure what is the success of this
19 strategy? All right, I see several things that
20 need to be taken into account. How well the
21 service sells, determines whether you have an
22 effective strategy. It's like basic marketing

1 101. If I am marketing a technology
2 appropriately, effectively, and showing how I am
3 meeting the needs of that market segment I'm
4 targeting, they will buy the product. That's my
5 best measure of success.

6 New jobs will be created, again as an
7 economic engine, if you're being successful, jobs
8 are being created because businesses are being
9 more effective, they're being more successful,
10 they open up jobs. Just as an example, you know I
11 may have a three four person operation currently,
12 I put in broadband access, I may be able to expand
13 the business to take on 20, 30 more people in the
14 course of a year.

15 New businesses starting, a third measure
16 of the success of this strategy. If you have
17 built effective networks new businesses will start
18 from within, new home based businesses will start,
19 and new businesses will come into the area.

20 And then the last measure of success,
21 which I don't think we measure effectively or
22 discuss enough in the current mode of operation,

1 is the home based business. In a number of
2 communities that have successfully introduced
3 broadband, they see antidotally an increase in the
4 number of home based businesses, and that becomes
5 key part of the economic structure. Thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. DAVID: Thanks Craig.

8 DR. STROVER: Thanks, I'm Sharon
9 Strover, I'm a professor at the University of
10 Texas at Austin, and I have -- I work with a team
11 that's done a variety of studies looking at
12 predominately rural regions. And what I've tried
13 to do in this first slide is summarize some of our
14 general findings. Let me elaborate a little bit
15 on the biggest studies that we've been involved in
16 because they might be the source of some questions
17 from the panelists and from the audience.

18 Our most recent study has been an
19 overtime study of four counties in the United
20 States. In Michigan, Kentucky, and two counties
21 in Texas. It was basically a quasi field
22 experiment at which at one time in our first

1 survey of communities people had no broadband
2 whatsoever. There was an RUS grantee in each
3 community and we went in after the grantee had
4 establish service or tried to, and then surveyed
5 these same communities. So, we have a kind of pre
6 post comparison in these communities.

7 The second major study we've done
8 involved 36 communities in Texas that were
9 recipients of broadband community networking
10 grants under the Telecommunications Infrastructure
11 Fund program that the State of Texas administered.
12 This was a program that was gigantic, it was
13 hundreds of millions of dollars. There was a huge
14 variety of communities, and we predominately
15 focused on evaluation measures.

16 Then finally we did a large study with
17 the Appalachian Regional Commission. Looking at
18 the relationship between telecommunications
19 investments, and economic development. In general
20 what did we learn about rural users? In those
21 various studies we found that rural users want the
22 same things that non rural users want from

1 broadband and out of the internet in general.
2 However, costs are higher and the incomes of the
3 people living in those regions, the incomes are
4 lower.

5 So, there's a mismatch, and that
6 accounts for some but certainly not all of the
7 issue with respect to broadband subscription, and
8 broadband take up. I think it does have a lot to
9 do with the assessment of the vendor community as
10 to what's truly a viable market or not.

11 We found especially in the Appalachian
12 study, which you know looked at indicators from a
13 13 state region that access to expertise in rural
14 communities is an issue, and this actually has
15 some tangents with our findings in our field study
16 in the four counties as well. If people can't see
17 other people using the internet, if they don't
18 know what it does, if they have a question and
19 can't get it answered, if there's nobody to reboot
20 Windows when you get the blue screen of death,
21 there are problems. There are problems.

22 And those kinds of people are few and

1 far between in rural areas. So, the issue of
2 access to expertise is considerable. So, along
3 with that role models, and leadership especially
4 when it comes to enabling community efforts of any
5 sort are absolutely critical. We found that small
6 town and rural environments really need evidence
7 somehow and models they have to be very present in
8 order for people's perceptions of why they might
9 use, or need broadband to substantially improve.

10 Public sources of internet connections
11 are important in low income and rural communities,
12 so libraries and schools are absolutely seminal,
13 but they don't tell the whole story. Not all
14 public sites are suitable for everything, and
15 rural small businesses can benefit from broadband
16 but they lack the knowledge base to really make
17 use of it.

18 Can I have the second slide please?
19 When I asked my research team what -- if I had
20 three -- since I have slides, what should I put on
21 those slides? This was what they recommended.
22 It's a picture on the face of a water tower, there

1 is actually a person climbing up the water tower
2 if you look hard you can see that. This was the
3 base station for a wireless service in Crystal
4 City that one of the RUS providers was creating.
5 It tells an interesting story visually I think in
6 that it illustrates how people will deal with
7 infrastructure that's there and are opportunistic
8 if there's a high point in a town that you can use
9 for something like this, well go out and do it.

10 What the visual doesn't entirely tell
11 however, is that ultimately this system was a
12 failure. There was no lasting cooperation between
13 the community and the grantor, the grantor never
14 ended up really offering the services here. There
15 were also some suspect motives that might accrue
16 to the provider in so far as both in this
17 community and in another community served by the
18 same grantor -- grantee. The services never
19 lasted very long.

20 The community allowed that they very
21 nicely set up was dismantled almost overnight. In
22 the meantime another small community just up the

1 road had a set of parents who thought that it was
2 extremely important to invest in their kids
3 education, and their kids computer literacy. They
4 instituted a laptops in the schools program, with
5 basically no help from anybody.

6 The moral of that particular story then
7 is that community collaboration is pretty
8 difficult and it's very hard to predict.
9 Leadership is absolutely necessary. I'll stop
10 there, thank you.

11 MR. DAVID: Thanks, Nicol?

12 DR. TURNER-LEE: Good afternoon, thank
13 you to the adoption usage team for having us here,
14 as well as the Chairman FC Chairman for convening
15 these workshops.

16 I am Nicol Turner-Lee and I work with
17 the Joint Center of Political and Economic
18 Studies. The nations leading think tank that
19 addresses issues related to people of color, and
20 disadvantaged communities. And our -- the
21 institute -- the Media Technology Institute has
22 particular interest in representing the interest

1 of African-American's and of people of color in
2 this broadband space, so that they are not left
3 behind.

4 And so the topic that I want to address
5 today is really related to the group that is
6 experiencing right now the lowest adoption. So,
7 I'm going to put up this slide and just jump right
8 into it.

9 I mean what we're seeing today, and I
10 think the Pew data is very significant in showing
11 that we see an increasing demand of -- and use of
12 adoption among groups, particularly subgroups. In
13 the last study we saw more subgroups getting
14 online as compared to previous studies. Where we
15 are staggering is with African-American
16 participation. Since 2007 we have only seen a 6
17 percent increase in adoption and usage rates among
18 African- Americans, which speaks to as we develop
19 the plan you know how we can develop strategies to
20 increase utilization.

21 And when you can troll for income --
22 next slide, what we see is that not only are

1 African-Americans still not online, but if you are
2 also poor you are less likely to be engaged, and
3 if we were to put on factors of where you live,
4 particularly in a rural community, it gets worse.

5 So, not to bring dire statistics to a
6 rather enlightening discussion, it is one way that
7 we should begin to look at how do we increase
8 utilization among this group. Because obviously
9 you cannot break the trajectory of poverty. If
10 you don't have access to a resource that serves to
11 empower and connect you to information that
12 improves the quality of your life.

13 So, one of the things that I would
14 suggest as we talk today and as we move forward on
15 the plan is to consider the reasons why
16 African-Americans are not adopting. In 2007 the
17 primary issue was around relevance, and compared
18 to other ethnic and racial groups the concept of
19 not being interested in the internet was pretty
20 dominate. If you looked at, and I don't have a
21 slide for this in 2009 the interest still remains
22 the same of relevance, with regards to getting

1 African-Americans and other people of color
2 online, but price has compounded this issue making
3 it so that if you are not interested, and you
4 can't afford it you're definitely not going to
5 benefit from the power of the internet and new
6 technologies.

7 With that being said, and keeping within
8 my time limit, I wanted to share a couple of ways
9 that we can begin to debunk these low utilization
10 trends that we're seeing in this community.

11 One, is by -- I'm going to skip over
12 this next slide and go right to this other slide.
13 One is looking at the ways in which
14 African-Americans are accessing the web. So, how
15 are they getting there? In a recent conversation
16 I just had it dawned on me about cell phones, and
17 the use of mobile technologies that is enabling
18 African-Americans and other people of color to get
19 online. If you look at that chart that I have
20 there 83 percent of African-Americans in 2009 Pew
21 study around mobile use -- mobile devices are
22 getting online much quicker as compared to having

1 a desktop or a laptop.

2 What's even more interesting is the use
3 of gaming consoles and mp3 players and other
4 devices that reflect the versatility and
5 flexibility of the web. So, if we're looking at
6 utilization, one of the recommendations could be
7 to figure out what other devices or repurposing
8 devices for educational, economic, and healthcare
9 purposes. As outrageous as it may seem, it maybe
10 kind of interesting to take your blood pressure
11 while you're on a Wii type activity modeling
12 device to determine how well that you're doing.
13 So, that's a cultural context in which we can push
14 the envelope on how we teach our children how we
15 get people connected to jobs, and how we improve
16 the quality of life and wellbeing and health of
17 our citizens.

18 The other area for suggestion or
19 consideration is how do we build content that is
20 going to be relevant for this population. It's an
21 easy notion that -- and concept for everyone that
22 entertainment content is driving web traffic right

1 now. And we should not assume that African-
2 Americans are this alone population of modelific
3 where they're not going online to be entertained.

4 MR. DAVIDSON: To follow up on what
5 Sharon said, I agree wholeheartedly. I think with
6 a lot of communities, the tipping point is the
7 person. You'll be hearing later today from older
8 American Technology Services, and they operate
9 clinics throughout New York, and through just one-
10 on-one interaction between the trainees and senior
11 citizens, they've brought thousands of seniors
12 online, and beyond bringing people online, they've
13 demonstrated some tangible dollar savings for some
14 of these people.

15 In one of their pilot projects, they
16 worked through 28 clinics throughout Manhattan and
17 the Bronx to train seniors to navigate the
18 Medicate Part D portal, and these classes helped
19 seniors save about 19,000 on their drug costs. So
20 it's really, with regard to seniors, the
21 one-on-one experience that is brining the seniors
22 - that's brining the seniors online.

1 There's not a panacea that will work,
2 and there are lots of models throughout the
3 country where people are trying different things,
4 and it's working one by one by one to bring people
5 online.

6 DR. TURNER-LEE: Yeah; I want to - I'm
7 not sure if I'm - oh, I'm on now, bring another
8 example, and to add to the people, I want to add
9 the context. You know, there is this idea that
10 where you are exposing people to broadband and
11 internet applications, they have to be
12 comfortable, convenient and familiar to the people
13 which you're working with.

14 One example, prior to my assumption of
15 my new role at the Joint Center, I was with one
16 Economy Corporation for many years, from its
17 inception, to think about programs that matched.
18 I think I want to go back to one of the panelists,
19 created that fusion between the digital mismatch,
20 between where there were resources and the
21 literacy of the constituent.

22 And in Chicago, there's a project that

1 started out as a TOP project, where it was
2 primarily focused on infrastructure development,
3 and that project, seven years later, people are
4 getting it. And they did not necessarily get it
5 when you brought in the infrastructure, they got
6 it when they understood the public benefit of
7 being online, when it became a public safety
8 concern, when it became the context of bringing it
9 into barbershops and beauty shops so people
10 congregate. Where it was defined by the
11 experience of that constituency did it make more
12 sense. And so I think we've got to drive the
13 people, the context, and the applications to get
14 more people to utilize it so that it's not
15 something that's sitting there, you know, waiting
16 for people to dust off to engage with.

17 MR. LEVIN: I'd like to make a comment
18 at a slightly different level. We've seen policy
19 change happen in very positive ways, primarily,
20 quite honestly, in a reframing of the challenges
21 facing the education system, particularly in
22 communities that have been economically challenged

1 by the changing nature of the work force.

2 So we can take Michigan as an example,
3 or West Virginia. So take Michigan, the economy
4 in that state has undergone dramatic changes. It
5 looks like, you know, I don't need to go into
6 that. So the leadership in that states
7 understands --

8 MR. DAVID: I grew up in Michigan, I
9 know.

10 MR. LEVIN: -- so the leadership in that
11 state understand then that the products of the
12 school system they're preparing need to be
13 prepared for a different sort of environment
14 outside of school, different job opportunities,
15 different career opportunities, whether they stay
16 in the state or not.

17 One of their reactions there then has
18 been to provide - to rethink the opportunities
19 that they're providing to children in the schools,
20 to seriously consider issues like digital literacy
21 and making sure that the kids there have skills
22 that they can use to take jobs and stay in the

1 state through the use of - largely through the use
2 of broadband.

3 And so what they've done is, they're
4 required children in the schools to take online
5 courses, as well as - in fact, what they have been
6 promoting, it's been a career planning tool.

7 West Virginia has required students in
8 their state to take a foreign language course,
9 knowing full well that in many of the rural
10 communities, they do not have access to a highly
11 qualified foreign language teacher, but what they
12 have done instead then is to offer those courses
13 online.

14 So they've been in response really at a
15 very high level to concerns about the future of
16 the children in the school system, recognizing
17 that the world has changed, and then trying to
18 provide them opportunities. I think there have
19 been challenges of where they've been trying to do
20 what they have been already doing, but more
21 efficiently and using, you know, sort of new
22 approaches, and those have been much harder and

1 more difficult paths to change in driving adoption
2 and use.

3 MR. SETTLES: I have a point; from my
4 perspective, and sort of looking at it from a
5 business case perspective, we focus a lot on the
6 idea of, you know, we want to go after the
7 adoption at the individual level, how do we get
8 individuals online, and I feel that that is
9 problematic in a couple of areas.

10 One very critical one is, again, I come
11 back to sustaining the network. If you can't get
12 the network built, and if you can't get an
13 operator or a community to run that network year
14 after year because they can't get enough
15 individual subscribers, the network itself is
16 going to fail, and all the rest of this discussion
17 isn't going to matter.

18 Where I feel that we need to focus on
19 are the institutional customers of the network,
20 and here's why. If I focus on the government as a
21 primary user of the network, number one, they will
22 buy more services, they will contribute more

1 dollars to the operation of the network. But
2 also, by virtue of the government using broadband,
3 they engage the constituents for everything from
4 paying bills and traffic tickets to receiving all
5 types of government related services. And so you
6 are driving the adoption by having an entity that
7 is financially sustaining the network providing
8 the content, the context, or the need for people
9 who have done - just taking, for example, going,
10 driving, you know, an hour to receive some sort of
11 government service. Well, now you take that same
12 person and say you receive the same service, but
13 you receive it online because we now have a
14 broadband network. So you give that end user a
15 greater desire to be on the network, but the
16 institution is driving the process, and they're
17 also sustaining the network.

18 The supplies to education, where the
19 education community is your customer, you're
20 replacing their old infrastructure with new
21 infrastructure. They will pay premium dollar for
22 that advance because they can now turn around and

1 provide greater services for their constituents,
2 which are students and parents.

3 It works with business, it works with
4 medical and health care facilities. So, you know,
5 this looking at the end user I think is going to
6 be problematic. What we want to come back to is
7 the - our institutional customers, our anchor
8 tenants of the network. The other thing is, they
9 pick up some of that marketing cost. You know,
10 the cost of marketing at telecom service to an
11 individual who's going to pay \$30 a month, you may
12 pay \$200 to win that customer, but if I have the
13 largest businesses, or if I have the hospital or
14 the school system providing content that drives
15 individuals onto that network, they are doing the
16 marketing at a lesser cost to them and to the
17 owners or the operators of the network.

18 MS. FAST HORSE: Thank you. You asked
19 the question, what was the tipping point, and I
20 just would like to address that by - you guys
21 remember the movie called The Gods Must Be Crazy?
22 You know, I think that - I knew that the way my

1 tribal peoples lives were - they were living had
2 changed the day that we, you know, well, let me
3 back up.

4 Our tribal people are very, very
5 involved in tribal elections and tribal politics,
6 and normally people go around the water cooler and
7 talk about, you know, the events and who stands
8 for what issues, but one tribal member took it
9 into his hands to develop a community forum online
10 and he called it the blog, and so everyone went on
11 this blog and they started putting their questions
12 and answers and having this huge dialogue and
13 debate, and so for a tribe that has, you know, a
14 little over 2,000 tribal members within a three
15 month election season, it registered over 50,000
16 hits and comments. And I knew that things changed
17 for my people forever the day my mom, who is 65
18 years old, she whispered to me, Valerie, did you
19 read the blog.

20 MR. DAVID: But did the number of people
21 who took broadband, you said it's 500 or so now,
22 did it increase following that?

1 MS. FAST HORSE: It didn't increase the
2 paid subscribership, but if we talk about adoption
3 or acceptance of the technology, they accepted the
4 technology, they like the technology.

5 MR. DAVID: Okay, right. Staci.

6 MS. PIES: Thank, Brian. Doctor
7 Turner-Lee, I really appreciated your comments.
8 And we have a statistic for you that I think is
9 the positive side of some of the statistics that
10 you provided. And you talked about comfort and
11 convenience being tipping points. Skype has also
12 discovered that control is one of those tipping
13 points.

14 And one of the things that we found out
15 in the Zogby survey that I mentioned in my
16 comments is that young people, African Americans,
17 and lower income people are more likely to use
18 their mobile broadband connection if they have
19 greater control over their experience. And what
20 that means in terms of the survey is, the ability
21 to download and use the applications of their
22 choice in the way that they wanted. And I noted

1 that your statistics showed that African Americans
2 use mobile devices to access the internet more,
3 and that was very consistent with what we heard
4 from our users in the way they wanted to use our
5 application.

6 And so to the extent that the commission
7 is developing policies that drive greater
8 utilization in all communities, a focus on mobile
9 and greater control over the consumer experience
10 or the consumer having greater control over their
11 experience is really important to drive usage.

12 MR. DAVID: Thanks. Jessica.

13 MS. ZUFOLLO: This has been a really -
14 very enlightening conversation and I want to thank
15 everybody for their input. It's been very, very
16 helpful for me personally, and I think for
17 everybody in the room and everybody watching this
18 on the web.

19 I think there's little question that
20 there is strong demand for access and for a
21 variety of applications so that Americans in
22 rural, underserved areas, as well as urban poor

1 areas want to be part of the global economy,
2 there's no question about it. And I think that
3 our agencies here represented FCC, USDA, NTIA, and
4 HUD, are very aware of this and want to be part of
5 the solution. At USDA, we have the distance
6 learning telemedicine grant program that really
7 has tried to, and I think successfully met some of
8 those challenges, but we can always do better and
9 we want to. I think what I'd like to get a little
10 bit of a sense from everybody on this panel is,
11 knowing that demand is truly there and we can
12 always drive more adoption in America, what we're
13 trying to do I think, you know, on a federal level
14 is to help also meet that through investment in
15 networks, and the construction of networks, and
16 the construction of facilities, as well as the
17 attraction of applications, as Staci mentioned.

18 So as part of that, please educate us on
19 how best we can continue to try to encourage
20 private investment into these areas. And as Craig
21 mentioned, you know, encouraging the local
22 business community to partner with both federal,

1 state, as well as public sector institutions. I
2 think there is a lot of opportunity for
3 collaboration here. I know that my colleagues at
4 NTIA have a variety of venues for that, and we do,
5 too, at RUS.

6 But it would be really very helpful to
7 hear from everybody as to how we can encourage
8 entities to invest and to build networks that can
9 actually serve these populations and give them
10 what they want, whether it be through a CMRS
11 service, a fixed waterline, you know, a variety -
12 satellite, it would be very helpful to get that
13 discussion going, because at the end of the day,
14 we need to ultimately serve these communities with
15 a product. And I think in tribal areas, there's
16 strong demand, as we've heard. We've been hearing
17 that, there's a tremendous amount of demand. So
18 how can we incent companies to do this, and
19 anybody that can build a network? Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. FAST HORSE: I would just like to
21 offer a suggestion, something - I don't think it's
22 unique to our tribe, but what we're doing is, as

1 you know, the biggest cost to delivering broadband
2 to a rural area is your backhaul, your transport,
3 your backhaul cost, and because we're so remote,
4 you know, that's going to be by far the largest
5 driver of cost, but we're doing is, we're working
6 with our local power company, and they have an
7 existing fiber that they use to connect from one
8 substation to another, and between the two
9 substations, their fiber, they have some dark
10 fiber, and so we're negotiating an IRU with them
11 so that we can use that I think as more non-
12 traditional communication companies, but people
13 who have existing infrastructure on the ground,
14 that there could be some incentive for them to
15 open it up and allow the use of their existing
16 dark fibers for people who are serving markets
17 that are very different than theirs, you know,
18 we're not competing with them for customers at
19 all.

20 DR. SANDERS: Let me just underline that
21 last comment. In the early '90's, when I was
22 asked to set up a state-wide telemedicine system,

1 we'll leave the name of the state off the table at
2 this point in time, I went out and did a needs
3 assessment of where the health care needs were,
4 and then I was given the telecommunications
5 infrastructure that both the state government had
6 and the Telecos had, and when I overlaid the map
7 with the needs assessment, it was very clear that
8 we didn't have, or at least they didn't think we
9 had the telecommunications infrastructure that we
10 needed.

11 I said, well, wait a minute, this is not
12 only - this is not the only fiber that is in the
13 ground. We've talked about in the ground in those
14 days, not satellite, they said what are you
15 talking about, I said, well, have you gone to the
16 power and light company, have you gone to the gas
17 company, I said they have huge amounts of fiber in
18 the ground for administrative purposes that they
19 use five percent of the time and have, as dark,
20 silent fiber 95 percent of the time. When you
21 took all four maps, what the state had, what the
22 Telecos had, what the power and light companies

1 had, and what the gas companies had, it covered
2 all of our infrastructure. The important message
3 there is, number one, are there incentives to try
4 and get the power and light companies and the gas
5 companies into another regulated industry, because
6 we actually have - I know this is going to sound
7 heretical, we actually had more fiber in the
8 ground than we know of, and that is one of the
9 reasons I made the point, we really need to do an
10 inventory, and the inventory has to be a
11 comprehensive one.

12 Everybody who talks about health care
13 applications with telecommunications keeps
14 thinking in a vertical stovepipe, and I say, look,
15 if a rural community has band width for
16 entertainment and commerce and banking, why can't
17 we feed off of that. There's a lot of redundancy
18 out there, so we really do need a dynamic resource
19 of inventory.

20 MR. SETTLES: Okay. In the last three
21 days, if you've been reading a lot of the
22 headlines, there seems to be much wailing and

1 gnashing of teeth about the fact that the major
2 incumbents did not submit bids for broadband
3 projects. And my sentiment --

4 MR. DAVID: I really don't want to talk
5 about that process, if it's okay.

6 MR. SETTLES: Well, no, well, there
7 comes to --

8 MR. DAVID: I really don't.

9 MR. SETTLES: Okay. So let's talk about
10 - we say we want to focus on private entities,
11 which by and large means we want to focus on the
12 major carriers or the major businesses as a
13 driver.

14 I think the driver, if you look at
15 communities like Pulaski, Tennessee, if you look
16 at Jackson County, Virginia, in a number of these
17 places where they have built community broadband
18 networks or community networks in conjunction with
19 local providers, they have come up with effective
20 solutions because they worked locally and defined
21 their problem and the local people decided what
22 was the best technology, who were the best vendors

1 to work with.

2 And I think as long as we have this
3 focus that only the larger telecom company, sort
4 of as you mentioned, are our only solution or our
5 first solution, we are not going to have effective
6 broadband solutions either in urban areas or in
7 rural areas. They have to define the need, they
8 have to define the technology that meets that
9 need, and they have to define the vendors. I
10 think where the national government plays a role
11 is facilitating the planning, maybe facilitating
12 funding in some way, form, or fashion, but it's
13 got to be from the concept that these are
14 community driven, this isn't a national one sort
15 of I-95 type network, these are policies that
16 enable communities to come up with their own best
17 solutions.

18 MR. DAVID: Doctor Stover.

19 DR. STROVER: Yeah, I tend to agree with
20 the comments. What can I add to it? Factually,
21 we found that all over the rural terrain that
22 we've examined, there are countless cases of heavy

1 telecommunication users in the middle of nowhere,
2 chemical manufacturing plant here, a bottle
3 implant there, and insofar as these are often
4 branch plants located in rural areas, they have a
5 lot of capacity, they get the expertise from the
6 home office. The small business down the road
7 doesn't know what they have or even that they
8 really exist.

9 So how can businesses, small and medium
10 sized businesses, share in the abundance that
11 might, in fact, be there or be proximate to where
12 they are? Of course, you know, the typical
13 recourse is to things like tax credits for
14 sharing, capabilities could be one kind of answer.
15 I tend to think that - I do know that in
16 communities with very effective developers, those
17 individuals make the connections between the
18 entities that have resources and the entities that
19 need resources, and sometimes some amazing things
20 blossom. So, once again, an investment in that
21 kind of economic development, on the local level,
22 could be helpful.

1 Some awareness that - and encouragement
2 of municipal involvement in running, creating
3 facilities could also be another way. You know,
4 it's not creating an incentive, but it's creating
5 an alternative structure in locations that the
6 marketplace has not chosen to give a nod to.

7 MR. DAVID: I was just going to say,
8 we're going to have a whole panel on September 1st
9 on state and local government efforts to push both
10 deployment and adoption, so if we could - Nicol,
11 if you want to maybe try to bring us back to
12 adoption --

13 DR. TURNER-LEE: Yes.

14 MR. DAVID: -- that would be helpful.

15 DR. TURNER-LEE: Yeah, actually I was
16 going to do that. I think, as Sharon mentioned,
17 she actually talked about some of the deployment,
18 you know, the incentives for business, tax
19 credits, et cetera, that I was going to mention.
20 But I think also, Jessica, to match it with the
21 consumer side, so if you have the infrastructure
22 in place, what incentives are there for consumers

1 to become actively engaged with this network,
2 because I think that's, as Craig is mentioning,
3 that's been some of the concern, if we build it,
4 will they come.

5 And so some of the suggestions would be,
6 in terms of government intervention, are there
7 ways to relook at and repurpose the universal
8 service fund to look at a lifeline for broadband.

9 You know, not to say that we take the
10 same program, but are the incentives for first
11 time or, you know, low adopters or people who are
12 in vulnerable populations, disability, seniors,
13 low income, to get online.

14 You know, and another thing to think
15 about, too, are there incentives for, you know,
16 again, with the return investment side of the
17 equation, when people are transacting business
18 online, are there other incentives that they get
19 discounts on services, expedited, you know,
20 paperwork or benefits that match the build-out
21 with the consumer demand side. And so I think if
22 we think innovatively in terms of utilization of

1 combining those two factors, it won't be just an
2 infrastructure conversation, but it would be one I
3 think that drives what Craig is talking about,
4 where it's feasible to go into those communities
5 and bring that asset. Another one to think of
6 also is expansion of the E-rate program, you know,
7 do we look at that as not only an in school
8 project, but something that connects the
9 surrounding community so that there's seamless
10 integration of networks that exist around a
11 school.

12 MR. DAVID: Francine or Luke, do you
13 guys have questions?

14 DR. JEFFERSON: I do, I have lots of
15 questions.

16 MR. DAVID: Go for it. I have a whole
17 page of them here, so if you don't have any --

18 DR. JEFFERSON: I have lots of
19 questions, but I will narrow this. I guess I've
20 been thinking about this and doing this for over
21 some 20 year plus odd years, one starting at
22 Chaney University, a very small black college, in

1 developing a telecommunications program there and
2 trying to partner with the local cable company -
3 and others to bring something to that campus, then
4 coming to the technology opportunities program.
5 And one thing that has occurred to me, that as I
6 listen and as I watch things going on is, if one
7 were to examine say the narratives of the over 600
8 or so technology opportunity program grants, or if
9 you looked at everything application that came
10 through there, the thing that sticks out in my
11 mind is the fact that it's not a native American
12 tribe, it's not a school district, it's not a
13 public safety agency, it's not a hospital, it's
14 not a vendor, but it cuts across all of those
15 areas, it's - each and every one is a
16 collaborative effort, and it's a collaborative
17 effort around solving some social problem.

18 And the thing that's unique to
19 Americans, in my belief, is this ability to form
20 associations around solving problems. So I would
21 like to know, to what extent do each and every one
22 of you, in terms of the organizations or the

1 interests or the stakeholder groups that you
2 represent, think that perhaps it isn't an issue of
3 - if we're talking about mapping and coming up
4 with a plan, it isn't necessarily the
5 infrastructure, the hardware, most of the top
6 projects were ideas that came before the
7 technology was there to support them, but now is
8 the time.

9 So how can you channel all of what's
10 here in a collective effort to lead various
11 interest groups to help create the plan? Because
12 it isn't necessarily a matter of relevance. What
13 kind of questions would you ask people to have
14 them tell you what it is they want to do, then you
15 can bring the technological solution to bear on
16 that perhaps. So I'd really love to hear your
17 thoughts and ideas about that. And I have one
18 specific question, Valerie. What was the first
19 digital signal?

20 MS. FAST HORSE: Smoke signals.

21 DR. JEFFERSON: Okay. I'd love to hear
22 your answer. Any comments or remarks? I'm not

1 sure that was a question, but I meant it to be.

2 DR. STROVER: I'll be maybe the heretic
3 here. I think collaboration is really hard. I
4 think it's extremely difficult, especially in
5 resource poor regions. Most institutions that
6 collaborate and even write proposals together in
7 order to try to accomplish something, unless the
8 proposal for whatever is being proposed is
9 absolutely seminal to the goal, to the heart of an
10 institution, or preferably more than one
11 institution, it will be marginal, and people won't
12 pay the kind of attention to it once say the money
13 is in.

14 You think it's a good proposal, the
15 money is in, they won't pay the attention to it
16 that they would if it, in fact, is essential to
17 the operation of that particular institution. A
18 lot of grant programs have required collaboration,
19 we looked at many of them. The ones that fail are
20 far more common than the ones that succeed.

21 DR. TURNER-LEE: Can I jump in?

22 DR. JEFFERSON: Eighty percent of the

1 top grants sustain themselves.

2 DR. TURNER-LEE: Yeah; let me actually
3 come in because I'm going to go opposite on the
4 collaborative piece and I'll go with the prior top
5 project and then I'll go with a recent example.
6 So with the prior top project that I reference in
7 Chicago, that project is a collaboration of 40
8 organizations that, indeed, started as an idea
9 prior to the technology, but is morphed into an
10 education implementation plan and now benefit
11 structure to ensure that, you know, this group of
12 desperate folks who come from all different types
13 of entities, from the smallest mom and pop small
14 business to a community organizing group, you
15 know, that works with ex offenders are really
16 bringing together their interest to answer the
17 common question of how do we solve problems in
18 this low income distressed community.

19 You know, a more recent example of
20 collaboration is what we were able to do with
21 civil rights groups, where you brought together
22 the National Urban League, the National - Asian

1 American Justice Center, the Joint Center and
2 others to come around a common dialogue of how do
3 you use not necessarily broadband and get involved
4 with the technical nuts and bolts, but, you know,
5 what are we missing is really, you know, the
6 question that was on the table by not having this
7 access among our constituents.

8 So I think you're right, I mean there
9 are logistical ways to handle collaboration and
10 there is the possibility of having one
11 organization more dominant than the other, you
12 know, that's the power and dynamics of people
13 working together.

14 But I think it's an interesting concept,
15 Francine, I think it's the concept of moving
16 people past the nuts and bolts of the technology
17 and moving them towards the outcome of the
18 technology that leads to a greater prosperity for
19 people who are lower income and a greater, you
20 know, desire and integration of how we use it
21 here.

22 MR. SETTLES: Can I add to that?

1 MR. DAVID: Go ahead.

2 MR. SETTLES: I think that, based on the
3 numbers of communities I've talked to, if there
4 was some uniform process by which they could do
5 needs analysis, so not that you have - well, yes,
6 that you have a certain number and a certain type
7 of question that you ask, what would you create if
8 you had broadband, what would you do, you know,
9 differently, what could be improved, what could be
10 brought to the community, how could low income
11 people become non- low income people.

12 But what a lot of people I talk to seem
13 to be missing is some sort of structure, some sort
14 of process for how to think about this and how to
15 talk people through to get to a vision.

16 You know, one of the things that the
17 people involved in planning Philadelphia's
18 wireless network back in 2004 mentioned, so forget
19 about the evolution of that network, but at the
20 time of the planning, what one person referred to
21 as the creation orientation to their town
22 meetings, to their focus groups and so forth,

1 where it was all about what can you create with
2 the technology, because it gets away from focusing
3 just on the problem and being stymied by the
4 problem of not having access to saying, well, we
5 could create this and we could create that, and in
6 sort of this collective creation mode, natural
7 constituencies form, natural collaborations form,
8 people start then asking, well, I have this
9 resource I can bring to the table, another group
10 says, well, we have dark fiber we can bring to the
11 table, and by a collective creation orientation,
12 you get - all these things are very positive to
13 drive the process, and you have to prioritize, you
14 have to eventually figure out, you know, which
15 technologies will best solve these issues, but in
16 the creation versus a, you know, I've got a
17 problem, I've come to complain about it, you know,
18 this will help.

19 But I think fundamentally, someone has
20 to structure a way to talk about this, because if
21 I get five different communities, they will have
22 ten different approaches to the planning process,

1 right, we need some centralized, not planning, but
2 a structure to do the planning.

3 MR. DAVID: Right; somebody had their
4 hand up, oh, sorry.

5 DR. SANDERS: Yeah; I think from the
6 health care space, the only thing that has
7 sustained and allowed Telehealth to grow has been
8 collaboration; without it, it never would have
9 happened. Fundamentally, the technology was there
10 before the collaboration was. The infrastructure
11 actually was there before the collaboration. And
12 what do I mean by the collaboration? Well, number
13 one, would a patient accept being seen by a
14 physician? All of the studies, from a data
15 standpoint that you ask for at the beginning, from
16 a data standpoint, between 95 and 98 percent
17 receptivity on the part of the patient to this
18 type of technology. Where was the biggest hang-up
19 initially? The providers, the doctors.

20 This was a change, this was something
21 new. Gee, we've never done it this way, how can
22 we be sure that we're getting appropriate values?

1 Then when the provider began to, I'll use the term
2 cave in and say, gee, this does work, then the
3 question was, how do we get the payer to accept
4 it, because one of the obstacles now, today, still
5 remains, although the walls are rapidly being
6 broken down, is to get the providers to say, okay,
7 get the payers to say, look, we will reimburse for
8 this, and you have the most recent announcement, I
9 hope it's okay to say, I have no official
10 association with them at all, you have United
11 Health Group announcing that they will now allow
12 their 70 million enrollees to be seen over
13 telemedicine, over the web, on a PC.

14 When you get groups like that committed
15 to it, when you get Medicaid realizing the bottom
16 line, don't forget, Medicaid as opposed to
17 Medicare, not only pays for the medical bill, they
18 pay for the transportation of the patient. We
19 have demonstrated that between 60 and 80 percent
20 of the time we reduce the need to transport the
21 patient from the rural community into the urban
22 community, which is a huge cost saving, to

1 medicate, and then we have the continuing effect,
2 then government coming in and saying, gee, maybe
3 we ought to pay for this, the CMS, although still
4 limited, is reimbursing for telemedicine
5 consultation. So this cooperative aspect is
6 absolutely critical certainly from a health care
7 space.

8 MR. DAVID: So I wanted to ask a
9 question from the room. It's been touched on,
10 Valerie, in particular, touched on this, it's
11 about community tech centers. And we have - as
12 part of what we have to do, it seems elemental,
13 but we have to really sort of define adoption.
14 And even if you start to tease it apart and
15 separate it into penetration or uptake and
16 utilization, you still have to define that.

17 So one of the questions is, someone who
18 is a reasonably active user at a community tech
19 center only, not in their home, not on a mobile
20 device, are they an adopter. So the question is,
21 community tech centers and other public shared
22 access points may serve an important role in

1 introducing broadband to non-users and educating
2 them, but don't allow individuals to realize the
3 full benefits of home or 24/7 access. How should
4 we prioritize or think about forcing - prioritize
5 or thinking about community tech centers versus
6 other efforts? Open that to the floor. Staci.

7 MS. PIES: Skype supports the concept of
8 community tech centers, and I think what's really
9 important about those centers, and I would say
10 that somebody who uses broadband applications at
11 tech centers is definitely a doctor, is the
12 introduction, it's education.

13 And you go into the tech center or the
14 library or whatever resource you have in your
15 community and you're able to access the
16 applications that are available over broadband and
17 you get a taste of, an understanding of comfort
18 with the application and your desire to use
19 broadband outside of the tech center is going to
20 grow. And, you know, Skype is a perfect example
21 of that.

22 We have libraries all over the country

1 who have installed computers with the Skype app on
2 them. People can go into the library and use the
3 Skype application on the computer. What people
4 learn then is the value that I spoke about in my
5 presentation and that they can use Skype over
6 their broadband network if they choose to make the
7 investment at home and that there will be cost
8 savings for them, but more importantly, that they
9 will be able to communicate in a way that's more
10 intimate using Skype video. And again, as I
11 discussed in my comments, if there are policies in
12 place that allow the user to then take their
13 application onto their mobile platform, it becomes
14 even more personal for them.

15 And that supports the statistics that I
16 cited earlier, that users want to be able to take
17 their broadband experience where it's convenient
18 for them. And so those centers drive that desire,
19 drive the understanding of the value of the
20 applications, and I assume then create greater
21 adoption in their home or business.

22 DR. TURNER-LEE: I just wanted to add, I

1 mean I come out of the community technology center
2 movement actually to get here years ago, almost 15
3 years ago, and I want to echo the importance of
4 the community technology centers, whether they are
5 libraries or CBO's or community based
6 organizations that have computer labs because
7 they're part of the general eco system for what
8 we're trying to accomplish in this task. The
9 thing to keep in mind as we look at the tech
10 centers is not just looking at them as access
11 points where you can get public access, but they
12 are training and engagement hubs, where they offer
13 the training, but they also offer this off line
14 social networking between users that encourages
15 incremental adoption.

16 MR. DAVID: So I think community tech
17 centers in some ways are like motherhood and apple
18 pie, it's pretty hard to object to them. I guess
19 maybe the question is, is that enough, meaning
20 we've got to find a way to draw a line somewhere
21 that this is the line over which we want people to
22 go. Are community tech centers beyond the line or

1 are they on this side of the line of where we want
2 people to be?

3 DR. STROVER: I don't know if you can
4 say that flatly that way.

5 MR. DAVID: That's fair.

6 DR. STROVER: I say it depends on the
7 environment, it depends on the constituency.

8 MR. DAVID: Yeah.

9 DR. STROVER: We found - in our surveys,
10 we found that community technology centers are
11 useful in many cases for our constituencies that
12 are a little intimidated by schools. Schools for
13 certain populations weren't especially friendly
14 places, or they're intimidating places. So to -
15 even libraries just don't seem very welcoming to
16 certain populations. So community technology
17 centers can be that other third place where people
18 like you are working and are doing things there.

19 MR. DAVID: I would ask the panel, if
20 anyone has any data that speaks to community tech
21 centers being a gateway toward real adoption in
22 the full sense, at your home, with your own

1 access, you know, whether sort of statistical or
2 longitudinal studies that give us a little bit of
3 meat to what we all intuitively think is the case,
4 I would welcome that, so --

5 DR. STROVER: Yeah, definitely.

6 MR. LEVIN: So just from the children's
7 perspective --

8 MR. DAVID: Yeah.

9 MR. LEVIN: -- I would say that
10 community technology centers, from the research
11 that I have seen, are perhaps necessary but
12 insufficient to meeting the need.

13 DR. TURNER-LEE: Right, thank you.

14 MR. LEVIN: And so there is research
15 that shows a correlation between home access to
16 the internet and higher academic achievement and
17 greater academic attainment. The research has not
18 been done conclusively to tease out why that is
19 so, but controlling for other factors, that access
20 remains a significant --

21 MR. DAVID: Are they correlated or is
22 there a causal relationship?

1 MR. LEVIN: Controlling for other
2 factors that are - that could potentially explain
3 that access, it still has an effect. Now, they
4 have not done the work to understand why, and I'm
5 happy - I probably have them in my bag, I'm happy
6 to direct you to those original sources.

7 MR. DAVID: That would be great.

8 MR. LEVIN: So it is associational, it's
9 a - but that may just mean that we haven't
10 answered the question yet.

11 MR. DAVID: Okay.

12 MR. LEVIN: There is an example of a
13 slightly different, maybe flipped on its head
14 community access model, and there's an
15 organization based in - originally based in New
16 York City, but now spreading around the country,
17 called Computers for Youth. If you're familiar
18 with it, and Elizabeth Stock, their Director,
19 right, so that's a model where a community of
20 families in a school setting, and in this case it
21 was low income families in New York City, were
22 provided with computer and internet access at

1 home, and training was delivered to the families,
2 and then that was integrated with content and
3 activities in the school.

4 And they have been doing a program of
5 research there for many years, and I know they've
6 seen some great successes, and I can certainly get
7 you more information on that.

8 MR. DAVID: That would be great.

9 MR. DAVIDSON: Hey Brian --

10 MR. DAVID: Yeah.

11 MR. DAVIDSON: -- I was going to say, I
12 agree with Sharon wholeheartedly on this point. I
13 think, you know, to the extent community
14 technology centers are a gateway, that's just
15 really sort of step one, that's the
16 infrastructure, people are essential. You can
17 have a computer technology center where it's just
18 completely ineffective because of the people, the
19 lack of collaboration. So I think here, you know,
20 to the extent the FCC weighs in on this issue,
21 collaboration is very important, local
22 involvement, involvement of the community, the

1 business leaders, the schools and libraries, very
2 important, that the community center have a
3 business case or a record. I think, you know, a
4 lot of people will be coming somewhere for funding
5 brand new start-ups, and there are organizations
6 out there that fit the model or definition now and
7 that don't fit it, but that are involved in the
8 community with seniors and with kids and with the
9 urban poor, and so it's - I think got to be a very
10 dynamic model.

11 If there's this imprimatur of this is
12 the model, then you've got something that's very
13 static, and there may be a lot going on outside of
14 the model that's very, very effective, where
15 people can come in and prove their case, but
16 they're not what the model has defined them to be.

17 MR. SETTLES: I'd like to make an
18 observation from San Francisco and Philadelphia
19 which have non-profit groups and community centers
20 where the community center is part of the plan for
21 where they teach the various skills and then they
22 send them home to where they have access, whether

1 it's by, you know, miniature WiFi access points in
2 public housing units or what have you, but it is a
3 planned process for which the community centers
4 are a part of, not given sort of a separate status
5 or a priority over one or the other. And I think
6 that what you maybe want to look at are proposals
7 that paint the whole picture. We're going to take
8 people who are uncomfortable in any other
9 environment, we are going to give them the basic
10 first skills, and we're going to push them on
11 their way, and then they go home, and then they
12 actually use the lessons, use the tools that we
13 give them there, and it's a continual process
14 until they eventually graduate out of that into,
15 you know, having their own access accounts and so
16 forth.

17 MR. DAVID: I want to give Luke a chance
18 to weigh in.

19 MR. TATE: Thank you. So I just have a
20 question here for Ms. Fast Horse and then another
21 question for Doctor Turner-Lee and the remainder
22 of the panel, and they're pretty well related. My

1 question first for you, ma'am, is, you mentioned
2 that there are 2,000 monthly users of the computer
3 tech center?

4 MS. FAST HORSE: Sessions.

5 MR. TATE: Exactly, so I was wondering
6 how many unique users that is on a monthly basis,
7 if you know that. And secondly, we have seen
8 significant variation in the frequency of use, the
9 modernity of equipment, and the availability of
10 training and sophistication of programming in
11 these computer tech centers; so to the extent to
12 which you could explain what has made your center
13 successful, what you would see as sort of the key
14 foundational elements of your success, I think
15 that would be important. And then the other
16 question I have for you and another question for
17 Doctor Turner-Lee, you mentioned that you have 550
18 out of 2,000 people connected, and I was
19 wondering, because you mention the cost system
20 major barrier, first, if you could talk about
21 whether it's more a barrier of the hardware cost
22 or of the monthly service cost, and then secondly,

1 if you've looked into at all universal service
2 plans or policies and what the potential there
3 would be and whether or not they're government -
4 federal government policies that could support
5 that to help spread the cost out.

6 And then that leads into my question for
7 you, Doctor Turner-Lee, and for the remainder of
8 the panel, you know, as was mentioned earlier,
9 there's a significant amount of money that goes
10 into the marketing of individual accounts, and
11 we've heard some interesting reports on what then
12 that influences, what markets the individual
13 telecom companies actually target, but given that
14 there is such a significant portion of the cost of
15 business wrapped up in the marketing, and that
16 also there are great economies of scale in going
17 into concentrated populations, I'm curious for
18 you, Doctor Turner-Lee, if you can talk about some
19 of the best models for bringing a concentrated
20 population or a cohesive population, whether it's
21 a neighborhood or a development online, even if
22 they already had broadband available, how you

1 actually get them signed up, and then what the
2 major barriers to such an effort have been or
3 would be, and then finally, what government
4 policies have helped those efforts and what
5 potential government policies could make it easier
6 to get at concentrated communities and take
7 advantage of those economy scale?

8 MS. FAST HORSE: That was a long
9 question.

10 MR. TATE: I apologize.

11 MS. FAST HORSE: I almost - I forgot
12 what you said first. First is the unique users,
13 unique --

14 MR. TATE: The unique users and what has
15 - what have been the foundational elements that
16 have made your neighborhood network center, your
17 computer technology center an example of a
18 successful center, given a variation of that.

19 MS. FAST HORSE: Okay. Well, first of
20 all, the unique users is about one-third of the
21 sessions roughly.

22 MR. TATE: Okay.

1 MS. FAST HORSE: And we have a
2 combination of adult users and lower - young
3 adults and old adults during the day, and then
4 after school, we're a bus stop. I think that adds
5 to our success. The bus stops, all the kids jump
6 off the bus, they run in there and they populate
7 the center and take over until it's closed, no one
8 else is allowed.

9 I wanted to answer your question, too,
10 about adoption real quick while I'm addressing
11 this is, can we count that as adoption? Is too
12 soon for us in the life of our tech center to know
13 if these users are adopters because they're not
14 decision-makers in their homes, they're not the
15 bread winners, they're kids, they don't pay the
16 bills. I think if they had their way, they would
17 be - they would have broadband in their home, so
18 once they grow up, I think they'll get it, some of
19 them already have, I don't know how many.

20 But what makes us unique is, one is, we
21 have a very open lab, we're not like a library or
22 any other public place, you know, they can do

1 anything they want on our computers, we don't care
2 because we'll just stick some - the image and fix
3 them back to default, you know, the end of the
4 week, so they can do whatever they want. We have
5 a very open, creative environment, and we have a
6 combination of - and windows and macs, so that it
7 picks the brains of, you know, all kinds of kids,
8 successful. What was the other question?

9 MR. TATE: The other question was just
10 you mentioned that cost was the major barrier to
11 adoption for the 1,450 or so folks who haven't
12 adopted, and just whether that cost is more of a
13 hardware cost barrier or a monthly cost barrier,
14 and then to what extent you've explored potential
15 ways of going to universal access or distributed
16 costs across the population.

17 MS. FAST HORSE: I haven't explored
18 universal service access, I don't believe it
19 exists for broadband, I think it's more for people
20 who are ILEC or CLEC, and we're not, we're an ISP.
21 As far as the cost barrier, a lot of people can't
22 afford the basic, the computer or the laptop to

1 connect to the network.

2 We don't have very real large
3 installation costs, it's \$20, and then our lowest
4 package is 24.95 a month. We don't have a
5 contract associated with it, so - but still we
6 have people who choose to use the technology
7 center because it's free, it's there, and they get
8 what they need. I really like the Skype
9 presentation because I think it is the application
10 that's going to drive the use and make people
11 bring it home. If our adults don't get it now,
12 definitely the kids do, and when they become
13 decision- makers, I think they will bring
14 broadband into the house.

15 DR. TURNER-LEE: I think I got the heart
16 of my question. I wrote down the three parts,
17 best practices, major barriers, and policy, so I
18 think I got that part. So, you know, not to sound
19 self-serving because I know my former colleague
20 from one economy will be on the next panel, but I
21 do want to share, I'm sorry, Brian, I'll just
22 share very briefly two examples and then maybe a

1 third to add onto the two examples of best
2 practices, and that comes my, you know, seven to
3 ten years being out there in the field with one
4 economy.

5 You know, one, I think in concentrated
6 populations, it's going to the nugget of what we
7 can control right now, which is affordable
8 housing. And so leveraging in the one economy
9 model, what we essentially did was to change the
10 way the low income housing tax credit was used at
11 that time to build new housing.

12 With the greening of our environment,
13 with the smart retro fitting of our housing
14 developments, you know, a suggestion to get
15 beyond, you know, the barrier of concentrated
16 populations not having access is to require any
17 housing development that receives federal, state,
18 or city funding to have a broadband connection.
19 Now, you can go further. In many of the programs
20 that we did under the creation of an equity fund
21 is that we have it where families have five years
22 of free internet access and that eventually rolls

1 in as a utility to the developer as they are
2 giving services to that community.

3 That's not much different than what we
4 see in the rental communities or what we see in
5 upscale neighborhoods of our cities, it's just
6 taking the same model and bringing that forward.

7 The second recommendation in terms of
8 increasing adoption is around engagement of young
9 people, and I'll start there and kind of
10 demonstrate how that could be expanded. We had a
11 program at that time, and we still do, called the
12 digital connectors, which were low income housing,
13 low income kids, rural, urban, tribal, working in
14 their community to become technology ambassadors
15 to their neighbors, their trusted sources of
16 information.

17 Even though, you know, those kids may
18 have not gone to the best school, may not have
19 been involved or had parents in their house that
20 knew about the technology, the combination of
21 those digital literacy skills and those service
22 opportunities crafted a core of young people that

1 can essentially go from development to
2 development, community center to community center,
3 library to library to provide the support. We
4 should consider in this country developing a
5 service learning initiative around technology. We
6 could repurpose the Americorp Program, Teach for
7 America, and other programs that make it a
8 priority, a necessity for young people to have
9 that service experience when it comes to
10 technology.

11 I was recently in a conference and
12 someone said we do that, we send them overseas,
13 let's keep the kids in this country to do the same
14 thing that we're sending them overseas to do,
15 building robust networks, training seniors,
16 connecting schools, so that we can build a
17 capacity of all American children.

18 And then I would say the third thing,
19 and it's a critical policy suggestion, is to go
20 back to what the fellow panelists have said and to
21 connect that interagency and interdepartment-wise.
22 If we put in place standards at Department of

1 Labor, at the Education Department, where we're
2 requiring this to be part of the public school
3 standard, where we're looking at work force
4 development programs where it's not just required
5 for you to be in a class, but you need to be in a
6 technology class to get your benefits, then I
7 think we'll begin to see this mandating and
8 incentivizing of people to get online.

9 MR. SETTLES: To go to your question
10 about marketing, because I think you had a
11 question relative to the marketing cost and how do
12 you tackle that if you're going to tackle
13 adoption, I think the best way to contain
14 marketing cost, but maximize marketing efforts, is
15 the partnerships and the collaboration that you
16 draw.

17 Again, I can go back to Philadelphia,
18 where their approach in the communities was to
19 find the agencies and to find the non-profit
20 organizations that have relationships with people
21 and induce them in some way to introduce the
22 computer, the access, and the way of doing

1 business with those agencies and those non-profits
2 as a way to bring those individuals on board.

3 And then what they do with them in an
4 interactive sort of day-to-day business side, then
5 expands into their personal lives or other
6 business areas, because that's their comfort zone.
7 They are already comfortable with dealing with the
8 agencies, dealing with the personnel, so all
9 you're saying is, here is a mobile device, here is
10 a laptop, use that as a way to get better, faster
11 service. And it truly takes a lot of the cost out
12 of that marketing equation.

13 DR. STROVER: This is kind of where the
14 notion of embedding the functions that people
15 actually want, aka relevance, into the experiences
16 that people have is a very useful and helpful way
17 to get them to approach the technology more
18 effectively.

19 I'm reminded of in these - thinking of
20 case studies of Zepata County, which was in the
21 past few years enjoying some economic growth in
22 South Texas because the gas industry has been

1 booming, and that really created some incentives
2 for younger people to try to get a slightly better
3 education because they thought that they could get
4 jobs in this industry if they had a better degree,
5 either a completed high school degree or a little
6 bit of college, and the work force center was able
7 to respond to that and create some distance
8 education opportunities with a community college
9 in that case.

10 So there was - but I remind you, it's a
11 whole context, it was a constellation of factors
12 that had to exist in order to make that work. I
13 think with - our society is moving toward the need
14 to connect to the internet for all kinds of
15 mundane things. Now, whether it has to do with
16 obtaining educational services or health services
17 or simple transactions, E government sorts of
18 transactions, those can provide a nice tableau
19 that will, in effect, force people to encounter
20 the technology, and then if there are these
21 centers around that can help, that could be,
22 indeed, be a very effective best practice.

1 MR. DAVID: Thanks. That's how you pull
2 up the microphone.

3 MR. LEVIN: Thank you. Just very
4 quickly.

5 MR. DAVID: You get the last word.

6 MR. LEVIN: Thank you. I doubt that
7 actually. Just a couple of opportunities in terms
8 of the policy context; like many around the table,
9 I've been at similar tables for a lot of years,
10 but two potential opportunities for the federal --

11 MR. DAVID: But this is the best one
12 you've got.

13 MR. LEVIN: Thank you. Absolutely, I'm
14 in the center of the table. Schools absolutely -
15 I mean focusing on just the children and the users
16 is absolutely important. I think in thinking
17 about where they're headed and their work force
18 needs and the work force needs of the country,
19 broadly speaking, is important. There are
20 private, public initiatives right now, doing that
21 like the partnership for 21st century skills that
22 are laying out a notion of what children should

1 know and be able to do today, in today's
2 environment and going forward.

3 I would also note that there was an
4 effort out of the Department of Labor in the early
5 '90's, the Secretary's Commission on achieving
6 necessary skills or scans, that was a
7 comprehensive effort to figure out the needs of
8 employers and what is needed to succeed in the
9 work place.

10 That was done in 1991. I would assert
11 that the nature of the work force has changed
12 quite a bit, and having such data would probably
13 be very useful in driving decisions about how to
14 shape a lot of these programs, in schools and
15 elsewhere.

16 And then I would note that in 1996, when
17 the U.S. Department of Education put out its
18 first national education technology plan under
19 Secretary Riley, the title of that plan was
20 getting America's students ready for the 21st
21 century, meeting the technology literacy
22 challenge. So this notion that children today

1 need a new set of skills because of the way
2 technology has changed the environment, and these
3 are skills about how to operate the technology,
4 there's always concerns about an operating system
5 or a piece of software will come and go, but you
6 do need to be able to function in that sort of
7 symbolic system. And there are also a lot of
8 concerns among children around issues of safety
9 and ethics. And I would say whether it is about
10 technology or digital literacy or media literacy
11 or around safety and ethics, there is not in this
12 country a comprehensive and uniform approach to
13 that being taught anywhere.

14 It is happening in pockets, but it is
15 not happening systematically at the state level,
16 and certainly not at the federal level, and it is
17 a mantle that the government, the federal
18 government has picked up before, and I think the
19 issue probably has only gotten heightened over
20 time and not lessened.

21 MR. DAVID: So we're unfortunately out
22 of time. I would take more time, but there's

1 another panel beeping right behind us as we finish
2 up adoption. This was really I think fruitful.
3 Hopefully our audience got a lot out of it, I
4 certainly did. I'm left with a couple of
5 questions which I suspect I will probably, or
6 someone will follow up with you, primarily that go
7 to the question of, you know, we somewhat
8 purposefully brought a series of demographic
9 slices to the table, ultimately what we have to
10 think about is not demographics or not
11 demographics only, but more attitudinal and
12 sectographic, and so, you know, if we were the
13 chief marketing officer of a company, we would
14 think about it that way and we would define
15 segments both of non- adopters, people who have
16 not taken broadband, purchased it, and then
17 separately those who may or may not take it, but
18 don't use it or across the spectrum of usage, and
19 why does that segmentation lead them to be in that
20 spot, because I think it's only then that we can
21 define constellations that work to meet each of
22 those needs and to bring the local sort of

1 partnership and execution to solve different
2 pieces of different problems for very different
3 segments, if you'll allow me to use that term.

4 So we may come back to, if anyone has
5 thoughts on that topic in particular, it would
6 inform us. I think we're going to get dozens of
7 ideas about ways to slice and dice segments, but
8 we'd be really interesting in conversing further
9 about that as we go forward.

10 So thank you for your time. Hopefully
11 you'll find it fruitful. For those on the web,
12 hopefully it worked well. And the audience, thank
13 you for coming and spending the time with us.

14 (Whereupon, the PROCEEDINGS were
15 adjourned.)

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706 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone (703) 519-7180 Fax (703) 519-7190