



Press Statement

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MMTC Welcomes Dr. Rikin Thakker as VP of Telecommunications and Spectrum Policy; Joins Consortium with NUL and WIA to Connect the Unemployed to Registered Apprenticeships in Telecom

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 13, 2016): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is pleased to announce that Dr. Rikin Thakker has joined MMTC as Vice President of Telecommunications and Spectrum Policy. Dr. Thakker brings to the MMTC team a rich background from work in academia, the private sector, and as an industry leader.

In his new role with MMTC, Dr. Thakker will use his extensive technical knowledge and expertise to inform MMTC's policy positions and the impact of telecom policy on minorities and women, and specifically the impact on diverse entrepreneurs and the underserved who are currently facing the digital divide. In addition, Dr. Thakker will serve as the lead content developer for MMTC's joint Department of Labor contract with the National Urban League (NUL) and the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA). Under the contract, the NUL/MMTC/WIA consortium will connect unemployed and underemployed minorities, primarily African Americans, with Registered Apprenticeships in telecommunications infrastructure within seven U.S. regions.

In addition to his work at MMTC, Dr. Thakker is co-founder and senior advisor at RF Academics, where he has designed, managed, and developed content on several telecommunications areas. He is also a faculty member for the Master's Program in Telecommunication at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of University of Maryland, and is an adjunct professor for Engineering Management and Systems Engineering department of George Washington University. In addition, Dr. Thakker serves on the boards of several organizations, including as chair of the Education and Training Working Group for the Wireless Infrastructure Association's Innovation and Technology Council; an education partner with the Telecommunications Industry Association; a peer reviewer for the International Journal of System Dynamics Application; and a founding member and honorary board member of the Telecommunications Students and Alumni Network at the University of Maryland.

"I am very pleased and excited to work with MMTC. This position uniquely enables me to continue my work both in spectrum policy and research, and in curriculum development within the telecommunications industry," stated Dr. Thakker. "I look forward to the measurable impact on diverse participation in our nation's future in telecom that this new relationship will allow us to deliver."

"We're all very delighted to have Dr. Thakker join MMTC," stated MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan. "Dr. Thakker has already dived into his role and demonstrated his value as a quality addition to the MMTC team. We can promise great things in the coming year and beyond as MMTC continues to grow and increase our impact in media, telecom, and high tech at both the national policy and community levels."

Dr. Thakker earned his Ph.D. in Systems Engineering with a concentration in Mobile Communications and Spectrum Management from George Washington University, his M.S. in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Maryland, and his B.E. in Electronic Communications from Gujarat University.

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.