



Press Statement

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Statement on the Chartering of the FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 24, 2017): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) commends the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and its Chairman, Ajit Pai, on today's announcement that the agency is chartering the Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment.

The FCC's original Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age operated from 2003-2013 under Chairman Michael Powell, Chairman Kevin Martin, Acting Chairman Michael Copps, Chairman Julius Genachowski, and Acting Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn. During that time, the Committee was populated with a nonpartisan A-list of volunteer subject matter experts. Led by Chairwoman Julia Johnson and her successor Henry Rivera, and aided by senior FCC staff including Designated Federal Officers Jane Mago and Barbara Kreisman, the FCC Diversity Committee produced an unprecedented four dozen policy recommendations aimed at ensuring the full participation of all Americans in technologies that comprise one-sixth of our national economy.

Kim Keenan, President and CEO of MMTC, made the following statement:

By chartering a new advisory committee on diversity, and expanding its jurisdiction to encompass closing the digital divide, Chairman Pai has brought the FCC back to its historic and nonpartisan public interest mission. MMTC is especially pleased that the new committee will be charged with the tasks of developing a media incubator program as well as providing solutions to the vexing moral issue of telecom redlining. This is a defining step toward closing the digital divide for every American.

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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.