



Press Statement

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Today's Positive Step For Diversity at the FCC

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 10, 2020): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) warmly commends the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) for its announcement today that the agency is creating the "Early Career Staff Diversity Initiative." Details on the FCC's initiative can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-intern-and-early-career-staff-diversity-initiative>.

Under the Initiative, the FCC will offer paid internships for law, graduate, or undergraduate students, recruit from minority-serving institutions (MSIs) such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the internship, Attorney Honors, and Honors Engineering programs, and increase recruitment with affinity groups such as chapters of the National Black Law Students Association and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Maurita Coley, President and CEO of MMTC, made the following statement:

We are pleased to support the FCC in this laudatory, bipartisan effort to help address diversity challenges in the media, tech and telecom sectors. Having trained dozens of lawyers, law students and policy professionals through our fellowship programs since opening our doors in 1986, MMTC is proud to commend Chairman Ajit Pai and Commissioner Geoffrey Starks for designing and implementing this new FCC initiative. I'm particularly heartened that the initiative will provide paid internships, so that cost is not a barrier to participation; and that this initiative includes specific outreach to MSIs and HBCUs.

MMTC's Chair and Treasurer, Ronald Johnson stated:

Since 1969, the FCC has expected its licensees to undertake similar steps to expand their employment pipeline to include minorities and women. Our hope is that this leadership by Chairman Pai and Commissioner Starks will encourage those the FCC regulates – and others in the industry - to do their part to achieve a diverse pipeline in terms of talent, ownership, and in the supply chain.

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a leading 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. Our mission is to promote equal access and representation in tech, media, and telecommunications through opportunity creation, awareness building, and advocacy. Our vision is to create a fully connected, educated, healthy and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit us at <https://www.mmtconline.org/>. Support our programs and fellowships here: <https://www.mmtconline.org/support-mmtc/>.