The Black AI Optimist Column: An Opportunity in the Trump Administration's
AI Education Executive Order

by Kenley Joseph, MMTC Policy Counsel

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As the AI revolution continues to reshape American society, President Donald J. Trump has signed an executive order that could significantly impact how multicultural youth engage with this transformative technology. The "Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth" executive order, signed on April 23, 2025, establishes a framework aimed at promoting AI literacy and proficiency among Americans, with particular emphasis on K-12 education and workforce development. This administration has presented several challenges for multicultural communities. At the same time, not all opportunities arise from trusted partners and advocates.

What This Means for Multicultural Communities

This executive order presents both challenges and opportunities for multicultural communities. As the Multicultural Meda, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) has highlighted in previous columns, AI technologies often reflect the biases present in their training data, potentially reinforcing systemic inequities if not properly developed and implemented. However, the democratization of AI education could also provide unprecedented opportunities for our communities to become technology creators rather than merely consumers.

The establishment of the White House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education and the Presidential Artificial Intelligence Challenge signals a commitment to broadening AI education nationwide. But the question remains: Will these initiatives adequately address the needs of multicultural communities who have historically been underrepresented in technological fields?

Key Components We Should Monitor

Several aspects of this executive order deserve our attention:

1. **Public-Private Partnerships**: The order calls for partnerships with "leading AI industry organizations, academic institutions, nonprofit entities, and other organizations with expertise in AI and computer science education." We must ensure these partnerships include organizations that represent and serve multicultural communities.

2. **K-12 AI Education Resources**: The development of online resources focused on teaching K-12 students foundational AI literacy and critical thinking skills presents an opportunity to integrate diverse perspectives and cultural contexts.

3. **Teacher Training Programs**: The Secretary of Education is directed to prioritize AI in discretionary grant programs for teacher training. Educators in underserved communities should have equal access to these professional development opportunities.

4. **Registered Apprenticeships**: The order directs the Secretary of Labor to increase participation in AI-related Registered Apprenticeships, which could provide alternative pathways into AI careers for those without traditional educational backgrounds.

Call to Action for Multicultural Communities

As MMTC has consistently emphasized in this column series, we must be actively involved in shaping the future of AI. This executive order provides several entry points for engagement, with critical timeframes to keep in mind:

First 90 Days: Critical Action Period (April-July 2025)

1. **Advocate for Representation**: Contact the newly established White House Task Force immediately to ensure multicultural perspectives are represented in its work. While there is no direct contact information for the White House Task Force noted in the executive order, the White House Task force is chaired by the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). As such, reaching out to OSTP is likely to the best approach at the moment - engagement@ostp.eop.gov. Note the value of including all communities into AI education initiatives. This is particularly crucial as the Task Force establishes Presidential AI Challenge plans, identifies Federal AI resources, and influences funding guidance all within this 90-day window. When communicating with the White House Task Force, a few points to raise in support of ensuring all communities benefit from this initiative are as follows:

   - **Economic Competitiveness**: "American global leadership in AI requires drawing from our nation's full talent pool. Diverse participation ensures we don't leave innovation potential untapped while our competitors fully leverage their workforce."

   - **National Security**: "Our strategic technological advantage depends on maximizing American ingenuity from all communities. Broader representation in AI development creates more robust systems and reduces critical blind spots."

   - **Return on Investment**: "Federal AI education initiatives funded by taxpayer dollars should benefit all communities that contribute to our tax base. This ensures maximum return on national investment in our technological future."

2. **Engage with Public Meetings**: Watch for announcements of initial public meetings that will shape implementation. The Task Force must establish plans for the Presidential AI Challenge by July 22, 2025. Show up, speak up, and ensure our communities' voices are heard during these foundational discussions.

3. **Partner with Schools**: Work with local schools now to ensure they're prepared to apply for resources and grants. By July 2025, the Secretary of Education will issue guidance on using formula and discretionary grant funds for AI education. Help school districts position themselves to benefit from these opportunities. It may be beneficial to contact the state departments of education ("DOE") to determine their awareness and readiness to take advantage of this opportunity. You can find the respective contacts for the state DOEs here.

4. **Partner with Organizations**: Seek and collaborate with entities that focus on promoting AI and computer science in education. These are the entities that are most likely to take advantage of this EO, allowing them and the communities they serve to benefit from this program. Examples of these programs include Code.org; Teachai.org; and The Hidden Genius Project.

Ongoing Engagement Beyond 90 Days

1. **Support Community-Based AI Education**: Don't wait for government programs to fully develop. Organize AI literacy workshops in community centers, churches, and libraries. Use accessible tools like ChatGPT, Canva AI, DeepL Translator, and NotebookLM that MMTC has highlighted in previous columns. When K-12 AI resources become available following the public-private partnerships, incorporate these into your community programs.

2. **Prepare the Next Generation**: Begin cultivating interest now for the Presidential AI Challenge, which must be held within 12 months of the plan submission. Help young people in multicultural communities develop projects that address issues relevant to multicultural communities. Watch for announcements about competition categories and requirements and organize study groups or hackathons to prepare competitive entries.

The groundwork laid during these first few months will significantly influence whether these initiatives truly benefit multicultural communities. Begin building coalitions today and stay connected with MMTC as we track implementation milestones and provide updated guidance on effective engagement strategies.

The Path Forward

This executive order aligns with MMTC's persistent message: AI literacy is not optional for the next generation. As we've maintained through our Black AI Optimist series, we believe that with

vigilant advocacy, strategic engagement, and community empowerment, we can ensure that AI becomes a force for equity rather than a perpetuator of existing disparities.

The future remains unwritten. While policy frameworks like this executive order establish important guardrails, the true impact will be determined by implementation and by who has a seat at the table. Let us be watchdogs, partners, and catalysts in this process, ensuring that multicultural communities are not just included but centered in the AI education revolution.

Stay tuned as we continue to monitor the implementation of this executive order and provide updates on opportunities for engagement. The AI future belongs to those who shape it – let's make sure multicultural communities are among them.