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Letters of Interest

Application Period:

Tuesday, July 17 at 9 am to

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Calls and Webinars

10 am PT:

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

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CETF News

[Connecting Rural Communities to High-Speed Internet](#)

June 5, 2018

[CETF Calls For Closing the Digital Gender Divide](#)

April 26, 2018

[The 'Two Californias'](#)

April 10, 2018

Let's Talk Broadband

In this Summer 2018 edition, we are thrilled to feature former **Federal Communications Commission** member **Mignon Clyburn**, a passionate and effective advocate for Digital Inclusion who cares deeply about the issues California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) supports. Commissioner Clyburn joined CETF at a recent Digital Inclusion Roundtable co-hosted with **The Greenlining Institute** and **The Utility Reform Network (TURN)** on the occasion of the institute's 25th anniversary. In other news: **CETF**, **The Greenlining Institute**, and **TURN** are jointly [urging the FCC](#) to require Internet Service Providers to make public critical affordable broadband adoption data. Commissioner Clyburn supports this effort and issued a [powerful statement](#) on her final day as Commissioner.

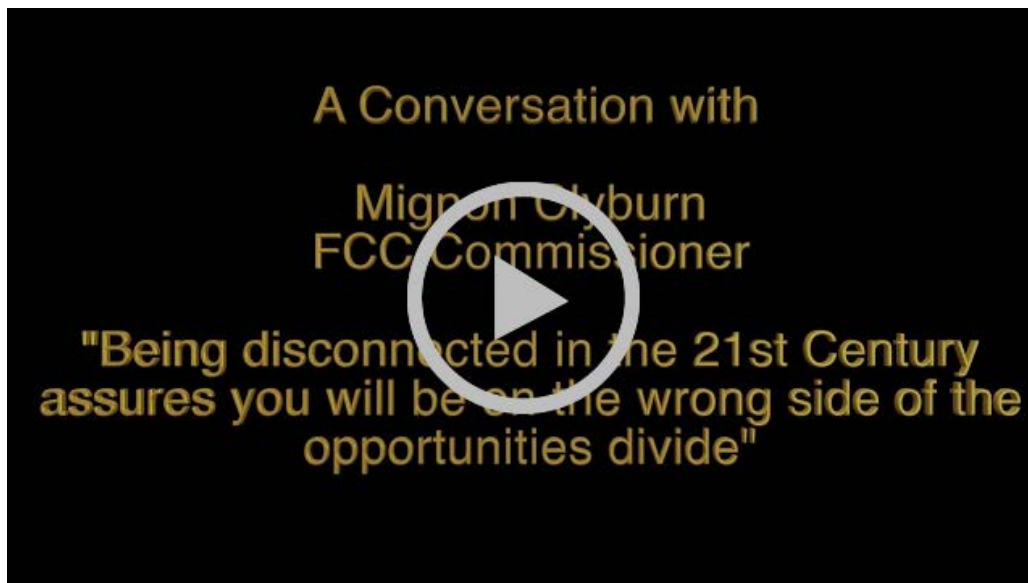
Please also read the Q&A with **Amy Tong**, **Chief Information Officer** for the **California Department of Technology** and **Chair** of the **California Broadband Council** on her plans to promote public-private partnerships. And get an update from the first **School2Home Northern California Regional Leadership Collaborative**.

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO
California Emerging Technology Fund

Mignon Clyburn on Closing the Digital Divide: Recruit More Allies, Demand Transparency

CETF, The Greenlining Institute and TURN hosted a Roundtable discussion in May with outgoing Commissioner Clyburn. Please watch the video and read about Clyburn's call for affordable broadband supporters to join together and speak up for Digital Inclusion for all Americans. Thank you for your public service Commissioner Clyburn.



Outgoing Commissioner Clyburn told Roundtable participants that the Digital Divide persists and agreed now is the time to hold Internet Service Providers (ISPs) more accountable by requiring transparency around their programs for connecting low-income Americans to high-speed Internet.

She called for a redoubling of efforts to close the Digital Divide and tackle poverty by recruiting more allies to the mission, particularly supporters of equitable healthcare and education since digital access is essential to gain opportunity and a better quality of life.

In that spirit, she applauded the efforts of CETF, The Greenlining Institute, and TURN to seek FCC support to request that ISPs report more details on the progress of their mandated and voluntary programs to connect low-income American to affordable broadband offers.

She complimented CETF and its partners for their success in making a facts-based case for Digital Inclusion: "Every story I learn from other states [exists] in the ecosystem of California. The data that you have extracted is important to share and socialize to bring more conversations to your mission and cause," she said. "Show how you have done it here so that the rest of the country can follow."

In a statement released in June, she said, "We are confident that these programs have the potential to help but we don't know what kind of impact they have actually had. To measure that, we need data, including how consumers are informed of these offerings, whether any artificial barriers exist within these programs that prevent otherwise qualified families from signing up, the number of low-income families that subscribe to them, and how long these families remain on these plans." She also urged ISPs to look for ways to improve their outreach and bring more attention to their low-income programs.

In an interview with CETF, she said that 45% of households making less than \$35,000 a year do not have broadband at home, adding, "that's unacceptable". She said we are at risk of "dooming communities to failure".



CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak, former FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, and CETF Senior Vice President Susan Walters attended the Digital Inclusion Roundtable.

Commissioner Clyburn on the impact of CETF:

"Show how you have done it here so that the rest of the country can follow."

At the Roundtable, TURN Executive Director Mark Toney asked her thoughts on how to gain more impact with policymakers. She advised building bridges with new allies to "build a business case to show [how] not having connectivity is a missed opportunity. You gain far more than what you spend."

Paul Goodman, Interim Telecommunications Director for The Greenlining Institute, asked for ideas on how to gain more visibility for the needs of those caught in the Digital Divide, and garner FCC support. She suggested coordinated nationwide campaigns to present key data linking access to affordable broadband and shared benefits of economic progress for everyone. She added that it's also important to focus on "being a force for inclusion and diversity — that might be the one thing that gets through."

The Roundtable participants thanked Commissioner Clyburn for her strong and consistent leadership in bringing more opportunities to the least-advantaged Americans by insisting on accountability and transparency.

Amy Tong Shares Goals To Tackle The Digital Divide



Amy Tong was appointed State Director and Chief Information Officer for the California Department of Technology by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016. She also serves as Chair of the California Broadband Council. She is the go-to person responsible for establishing and implementing state IT strategic plans, policies and standards. Let's Talk Broadband sat down with Tong, who advocates for broadband infrastructure to develop Digital Inclusion efforts in telehealth, social services, community access and education.

Why is it important for the state of California to close the Digital Divide?

California has the 5th largest economy, but there are still areas that are without necessities such as access to the Internet. As a citizen of this state, one might assume that basic access to the Internet is a need that is accessible to everybody. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The state government provides our services such as health and social services and emergency communication — basic information that should be made available to everybody in the state, but a lot of people are not able to access that through the Internet.

As Chair of the California Broadband Council, what are your top goals to strengthen Digital Inclusion efforts and see that they are completed?

My top three goals to strengthen Digital Inclusion efforts are: promote broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas, ensure public institutions have broadband access, and encourage private and public relationships to support digital literacy. The close collaboration between private and public institutions is critical to ensuring citizens are ready and able to live in the digital age, ultimately, strengthening Digital Inclusion.

Read the full interview [here](#) and view her video [here](#).



**School2Home Hosts
Northern California Regional Leadership Collaborative**

In spring, educators and community partners participated in the School2Home 2018 Northern California Collaborative meeting in Winters, bringing together representatives from five school districts to share how they are integrating technology into teaching and learning. They visited a fifth-grade classroom at Shirley Rominger Intermediate School in Winters to see how students are using the Internet to learn about the Civil War and heard about a Winters High School program that enables agriculture department students to take orders online from the community for custom-built sheds, benches and metal work. They also heard from Winters Joint Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Todd Cutler on how he is integrating School2Home Core Components in district schools.



School2Home Executive Manager Agustin Urgiles and CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak met with the staff of Shirley Rominger Intermediate School where the School2Home program will be introduced in the fall.



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