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Let's Talk Broadband

Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue of *Let's Talk Broadband*. In this edition, you will find the latest news since the enactment of the Internet For All Now Act (AB 1665), a Q&A with Shireen Santosham, Chief Innovation Officer for San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, a review of the School2Home 2018 Leadership Academy, which featured a presentation by Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and an interview with Kenneth Shelton, Education Technology Specialist. There is exciting news about initiatives in Imperial County and San Mateo County. We are also proud to learn that the California State Fair will be honoring the California Emerging Technology Fund as a 2018 Champion of Technology.

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO
California Emerging Technology Fund



Megan Cowdell, Program Coordinator for California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and Digital Access Program (left), and Susan Walters, CETF Senior Vice President, attended the March Meeting of the CETF Board of Expert Advisors where they discussed the best ways to implement the Internet For All Now Act of 2017.

Internet For All Now Act of 2017 —Enacted !

The Internet For All Now Act of 2017 ([AB 1665](#)), became law in October, continuing California's role as a national trailblazer for Digital Inclusion. The Act marks a major

accomplishment in aligning the priorities of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) and community-based organizations to bridge the Digital Divide and examine the next phases of progress. We applaud Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia for stepping forward to author the bill and co-authors: Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Rob Bonta, Anna Caballero, David Chiu, Brian Dahle, Susan Eggman, James Gallagher, Mike Gipson, Chris Holden, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Tom Lackey, Evan Low, Devon Mathis, Kevin McCarty, Jose Medina, Kevin Mullen, Eloise Gómez Reyes, Blanca Rubio, Miguel Santiago, and Jim Wood.

The Act authorizes \$330 million in new funding for broadband infrastructure projects, designed to complete the Legislative goal of broadband deployment reaching 98% of California households. New funding is also aimed at raising home Internet adoption levels. CETF strongly recommends that the CPUC and Legislature set a goal of 90% for the hardest-to-reach populations by 2023. Here's how the additional CASF funding is allocated:

- \$300 million for Infrastructure Account
- \$10 million for Regional Consortia Account
- \$20 million to establish a new Adoption Account

Digital Inclusion leaders are now focusing on how the CPUC writes the rules for implementing AB 1665 and working with the Legislature to address what needs to remain to close the Digital Divide.

In November, CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak, Co-Chair Barbara O'Connor, and Board Member Jeff Campbell presented the "[Catalyst For Action: 10 Years of Achievement in Closing the Digital Divide](#)" report to the CPUC. During the presentation, CETF emphasized strategy and next steps to accelerate broadband deployment and the promotion and adoption of affordable broadband offers to qualified Californians. CETF also explained that without data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on the number of households that have signed-up for affordable broadband offers, it is difficult to determine where to focus adoption efforts. CETF is urging the CPUC to implement rules for transparent reporting by ISPs so that affordable offers can be targeted to those in need.

Government offices and community-based organizations that want to learn more about how they can help expand outreach efforts to their residents and clients should contact Susan Walters, CETF Senior Vice President, at susan.walters@cetfund.org.

Learn How San Jose is Working to Close the Digital Divide An Interview with San Jose's Chief Innovation Officer: Shireen Santosham



Since joining San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo's team in 2016, Shireen has led efforts to make San Jose one of the most innovative cities in the country by being a champion for data-driven policy-making, investing in broadband, launching autonomous vehicle pilots, and driving creative partnerships with tech companies. Let's Talk Broadband asked Shireen about her ideas for promoting initiatives to close the Digital Divide

As the leader of the Mayor's team to build a "smart city", you are engaged daily in envisioning the future of San Jose in terms of technology adoption, encouraging civic engagement, and improving digital literacy. What do you think California municipalities can do to expand tech-infrastructure for high-speed Internet to unconnected and underserved neighborhoods?

Unfortunately, too many people in California remain on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. In San Jose alone, we have over 95,000 residents without broadband Internet access. And, 28% of our population does not have wired broadband access at home. These numbers are astonishing for the largest city in Silicon Valley. We know that rural California cities have even wider Digital Divides. First, it's important to shine a light on Digital Equity as a core issue for your community through data. Second, it's important to learn how to work with the private sector to invest in your community. In San Jose, we retooled our broadband team to have a single point of contact for companies and are currently revamping our permitting process to batch process applications. Additionally, we are making strategic investments in conduit fiber and community Wi-Fi to bridge gaps in underserved neighborhoods.

CETF is excited to be exploring opportunities with the Mayor's Office to introduce our School2Home Program to bring digital tools and training to students. Mayor Liccardo has developed many effective public-private partnerships in San Jose. What makes these partnerships successful and what lessons might other cities learn?

Today, 70% of homework requires Internet access, yet 29% of our residents who make less than \$35,000 a year only have mobile phone access, and 23% say they have no access at all. This means many of our children who have the most need don't have the tools to be successful at school or gain the right skills and training to set them up for the future. School2Home is one of the many programs we offer to get students online and the learning tools they need. We also have partnered with the Sprint 1 Million project to get nearly 10,000 low-income high schoolers free devices and Internet access for all four years, among other projects to close the Digital Divide. These projects are successful because of the leadership advocacy of all of our partners, a common goal to educate families about the importance of online learning and having the grit to push these projects to completion.

Mayor Liccardo has long championed programs to invest in at-risk youth and improve their educational and employment opportunities. How critical is affordable high-speed Internet access at home and school, along with training and outreach programs, to prepare California's youth for the global workforce?

The future is in technology — I witness the amazing inventions coming out of Silicon Valley companies every day. Virtual reality, autonomous vehicles, robots and drones — these are all inventions that will mature when the next generation is at the peak of their working lives. Those without digital skills will lose out. Less than 5% of technology company leadership today is Latino or Hispanic, yet over a third of our population (and much of our low-income population) is Latino or Hispanic. We must create opportunities for all children in our communities. Internet access at home is foundational to building skills and learning. And, increasingly services and employment applications are only offered online. So, those without access are at a substantial disadvantage.

Affordable housing is one of the Mayor's top priorities. What opportunities do you envision in incorporating Internet access in affordable housing initiatives?

Affordable housing is an important asset for so many of our families —especially in the Bay Area. Internet access is increasingly an essential part of life and should be part of the initial plans for any affordable housing site, not just a "nice-to-have." We need to shift thinking about digital infrastructure to the mindset we have around physical infrastructure —just as important as planning for buildings, roads, electricity, or water. Many of our affordable housing sites include computer centers or free Internet access. But more needs to be done to make sure all of these communities are connected. And, this access needs to be offered for free or at substantially reduced rates —the number one barrier to Digital Inclusion for low-income families is the cost of Internet service.



Transforming Learning, Transforming Lives School2Home Leadership Academy Promotes Learning Communities

California education leaders met in downtown Los Angeles in February for the 5th Annual School2Home Leadership Academy (video link [here](#)). The theme at this year's Leadership Academy was technology; how to integrate it into the classroom and how to best engage and support teachers in using educational technology to close the Achievement Gap and the Digital Divide. Agustin Urgiles, School2Home Executive Manager, commented, "Teachers and administrators benefited by hearing from their peers and leaders in the field of technology education. The School Leadership Teams gained pivotal insight enabling them to develop their Actions Plans, which they will use to advance School2Home on their campuses."



Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (center), joined School2Home leaders Raquel Cinat, Pamela Stiles, Agustin Urgiles, and Renee Hill at the 2018 Leadership Academy to discuss integrating technology into education.

School2Home is active in 35 schools involving 19,000 students and their parents and 900 teachers. This year's featured speakers included: Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Geoff Belleau, Education Consultant for the California Department of Education, Dr. Francis Gipson, Chief Academic Officer of Los Angeles Unified Schools District (LAUSD), Kenneth Shelton, Strategy Specialist for EdTechTeam, Micah Struder, Educational and Informational Technology Coordinator at Winters Joint Unified School District, and Sophia Mendoza, LAUSD Instructional Technology Initiative Director.



Renée Martinez, President Emeritus of Los Angeles City College, and newly appointed CETF Board Member, delivered opening remarks at the 2018 School2Home Leadership Academy.



Dr. La Royce Murphy, Principal of Crozier Middle School in Inglewood Unified School District, posed for a selfie with CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak (left), Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Crozier educators, Anabel Fregoso, Tamera Thompson, and Ang Rush.



School2Home educators in the San Bernardino City Unified School District met with Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (middle back row).

Tech Educator Calls for Digital Equity in California Schools An Interview with Education Technology Specialist: Kenneth Shelton



Kenneth Shelton specializes in leveraging instructional technology to effectively engage middle school students and raise student achievement. As part of his active involvement within the Educational Technology community, Shelton is an Apple Distinguished Educator and Google Certified Innovator. He regularly keynotes conferences and leads workshops that address educational technology equity and inclusion.

What message did you deliver at the School2Home Leadership Academy?

I addressed the challenges of how we effectively and sustainably close the Achievement Gap. California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson created a task force in 2012 with the overarching theme: "No child left offline." If your plan does not involve technology, the Gap will not be closed. It's 2018, it's the 21st century, and using technology is a must. Technology is an access portal that engages no matter the student's socioeconomic status and lays a critical foundation for closing the Achievement Gap. Every time a student fails or drops out that is human capital that we have completely lost.

How can educators best engage and challenge their students using technology?

We do not want to be asking our students questions that lead them to simply Google the answer. For example, my 11-year-old daughter was given an assignment to memorize the U.S. state capitals. I suggested an exercise using Google Earth, in which the students analyze where the state capitals are located. So instead of just memorization, they also begin to develop a geo-literacy. Technology can be a wonderful, transformative tool when utilized to engage students in new ways. If instructors simply digitize lessons, they fail the students by not providing contemporary engaging learning opportunities.

Overcoming digital barriers at home and in school. We need to put technology tools in the hands of all students, no matter their socioeconomic status, race or gender. The brilliance of the School2Home Leadership Academy is that it helps educators think of ways to incorporate technology not only in the classroom but also at home by involving parents. When incorporating technology, we need to give our schools digital equity, so they can fully integrate technology across all schools, and make sure families have access to affordable broadband at home.

Are the technology apps you used during your School2Home Leadership Academy presentation accessible to educators?

Everything we used at School2Home Leadership Academy is free. I am a big fan of open educational resources. I used Answer Garden, which is a free polling app that allows you to post questions and then feedback pop us as a visual representation of the most popular

answers. We used Padlet as a platform for learner voice and publication. We used Google Sites, which is part of the Google Suite for Education, as a Digital Portfolio of our learning. NextVista.org is another fun resource for students and teachers to access educational videos. I also recommend to educators that they empower students to submit instructional videos to one of the contests run on NextVista.org. Each video has a 90 second-limit and is arranged in three principal categories, depending on the lesson focus.

When onboarding 1:1 technology tools and news apps, it is imperative that educators and administrators work together to develop culturally relevant and responsive programs that effectively support student achievement. This will help lead to "techequity", the ideal combination of equal access to and effective use of technology.

Read the entire interview at [School2Home](#).

Imperial Valley Tackles Internet Access

On February 9th, CETF joined Imperial Valley Economic Development Corp. (IVEDC), Southern Border Broadband Consortium (SBBC), and Charter Communications at a Roundtable in Imperial County to discuss implementation of the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CETF and Charter Communications. The MOU covers deployment of broadband to 257,000 unserved households, broadband adoption by 550,000 low-income households and installations of 125 public Wi-Fi hotspots throughout California.

Timothy Kelley, IVEDC President and CEO, and Glenna Barrett, SBBC Coordinator, hosted the Roundtable. During the meeting, ISPS, local economic planning officials, and county offices discussed opportunities for collaboration to accelerate progress in closing the Digital Divide in Imperial and San Diego counties.



Timothy Kelley, IVEDC President and CEO, Richard Motta, CETF Co-Chair and Treasurer, and Sunne Wright McPeak, CETF President and CEO, discussed how to close the Digital Divide in rural California and beyond.

Following the Roundtable discussion, Gladys Palpallatoc, CETF Associate Vice President attended the "Flip-the-Switch" ceremony at Brawley High School, hosted by Dr. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Superintendent of Schools. Palpallatoc said, "Like many school districts across the nation, Imperial County has struggled to update technology in its rural school districts. But that has not deterred Dr. Todd Finnell."

At the "Flip-the-Switch" ceremony, Dr. Finnell, launched BorderLink, a pilot wireless education network. BorderLink runs along the K-12 High-Speed Network (K12HSN), an existing fiber-optic network, that was established two decades ago by Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE). The BorderLink pilot relies on Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology, the same wireless technology that connects mobile phones and devices from all of the major carriers. The education network connects indoor modems or hotspots through a wireless router that

acts as a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot. Students, teachers and staff at high schools in Brawley, El Centro, Herber, Seeley and Westmoreland school districts can access the network on and off campus through individual devices. So far, BorderLink has distributed 1,600 free devices.

Securing significant public funding for broadband in rural areas such as the Imperial Valley is challenging. But the need has never been greater if California's students are to be adequately prepared to compete in the global economy.

Valeria Herrera, a freshman at Brawley Union High School, told the *Imperial Valley Press*, "Right now, I don't have Internet access at my home, I only have access to my cell phone but its limited access."

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia expressed words of encouragement to the ICOE and SBBC for undertaking the initiative to build a unique educational network.



Dr. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Superintendent of Schools (seated in middle) and Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (seated right) joined local educators to "Flip-the-Switch" on BorderLink in Imperial County.

San Mateo County Supervisors Declare Support for Digital Inclusion



Ortensia Lopez, Executive Director of El Concilio of San Mateo County (left), Olga Talamante, Board Member and former Executive Director of the Chicana Latina Foundation (CLF) and Alicia Orozco, CLF Special Projects Manager (right), accepted the Resolution for Digital

Inclusion from San Mateo County.

In February, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution declaring the importance of closing the Digital Divide by raising public awareness around Digital Inclusion efforts.

CETF thanks its San Mateo County grantee partner, Chicana Latina Foundation, for its dedication to Digital Inclusion and appreciates the support of Board President David Pine and Supervisors David J. Canepa, Carole Groom, Don Horsley, and Warren Slocum.

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