

# PANELISTS

---

## Session 1

### Behind the Digital Curtain- What Goes Into Constructing and Operating Our Modern Communications Network?

---

#### *Daniel Davis*

**CEO and Co-Founder  
Arcadian Infracom**

Dan has 25 years of global operations, strategy, finance, regulatory and legal leadership experience in telecom infrastructure, data center, cloud, medical device and biotechnology companies. Prior to founding Arcadian, Dan provided corporate strategy, finance and operations advisory services to data center and network service provider companies as well as private equity, hedge fund and family office investors in the infrastructure space. Dan is active in the St. Louis start-up company ecosystem acting as lead mentor to select early stage companies in a local accelerator as well as providing one-on-one coaching to early stage CEOs. Dan periodically teaches select courses within the Executive MBA program at Washington University in St. Louis.



Mr. Davis retired in April 2017 from CenturyLink after a 20-year executive career, where he last served as Vice President in its Corporate Strategy group. Dan had responsibility for the worldwide corporate business development efforts of CenturyLink and was the executive sponsor for relationships with global technology leaders such as Microsoft and Facebook. Before his time in the CenturyLink Corporate Strategy group Dan served as its Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Davis earned his B.A. degree in Political Science from The University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana (with significant coursework in mechanical engineering), his J.D. from St. Louis University and his Executive MBA from Washington University in St. Louis.

---

#### *Allisa Cooper*

**Vice President & Chief Technology Officer for Technology Policy  
Cisco Systems**

Allisa Cooper is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for Technology Policy and a Fellow at Cisco Systems. She leads and supports the company's technology policy work on artificial intelligence, broadband, technical standards, digital sovereignty, and other issues. She previously served as Vice President of Technology Standards at Cisco and in a variety of leadership roles in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), including serving as IETF Chair from 2017 to 2021. She also served as the chair of the IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (ICG) from 2014 to 2016. At Cisco she was responsible for driving privacy and policy strategy within the company's portfolio of real-time collaboration products before being appointed as IETF Chair. Prior to joining



Cisco, Alissa served as the Chief Computer Scientist at the Center for Democracy and Technology, where she was a leading public interest advocate and technologist on issues related to privacy, net neutrality, and technical standards. Alissa holds a PhD from the Oxford Internet Institute and MS and BS degrees in computer science from Stanford University.

Ms. McIntyre is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, the American Leadership Forum, Leadership America, and Leadership California. She is also an alumni member of the Board of Directors of Woman Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE), an organization which provides services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and a member or supporter of several other non-profit and community organization.

---

### *Jeff Votaw*

**Vice President of Engineering  
Comcast.**

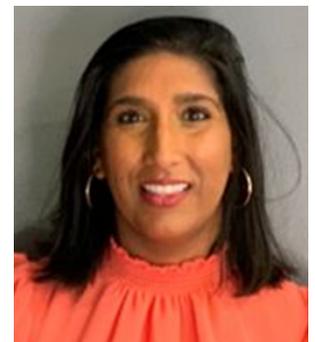
Leading a team of approximately 500 people in Comcast California's Engineering and Construction organization, Jeff brings to this role 35 years of industry experience most recently serving as the Vice President of Technical Operations for Comcast in California. Prior to that, he was the Area Vice President of Field Operations for Comcast in the Sacramento Valley. He serves as an active member of the Society of Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE)



### *Radha Sharma*

**Director of Engineering, NorCal/NV  
Verizon**

Sharma is Senior Manager of Municipal Engagement with Verizon Wireless and serves on the steering committee for Joint Venture's Wireless Communications Initiative. At Verizon, Sharma works closely with local governments and community groups in order to align network goals and streamline ongoing 4G and future 5G deployments. Based at Verizon's regional headquarters in Walnut Creek, Sharma oversees a region running from Bakersfield north to the Oregon Border and including Nevada.



Sharma attended San Jose State University where she majored in political science before obtaining a Juris Doctor at Golden Gate University

---

## Session 2

# Avoiding the Splurge Into Squander...How Can We Ensure Our Billions of Dollars of Public Investments Is Money Well Spent?

---

### *Jack Garamendi*

**Supervisor  
Calaveras County**

Supervisor Garamendi's district includes the communities of Calaveritas, Glencoe, Mokelumne Hill,, Mountain Ranch, Paloma, Rail Road Flat, Sheep Ranch, West Point Wilseyville as well as parts of San Andreas.

Supervisor. Garamendi, a fifth generation Californian from the Central Valley, received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and his MBA from California State University, Hayward. He was also a Fulbright Scholar in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Supervisor Garamendi spent nearly two decades working for the University of California - at the Office of the President and UC campuses in Berkeley, Davis and Merced. His success at UC allowed him to return to California's Central Valley as the Founding Vice Chancellor of University Relations at UC Merced. He was part of the leadership team that opened the first new University of California campus in 40 years.



### *Rochelle Swanson*

**Government Affairs Manager  
Crown Castle**

Rochelle Swanson is the Government Affairs Manager for Crown Castle in the Northern California region. In that capacity, Rochelle leads Crown Castle's Government Affairs strategy which includes engaging local jurisdictional leaders, and leading Crown Castle's legislative goals in Sacramento. Her area of responsibility ranges from San Luis Obispo County to the Oregon Border, as well as the Northern portion of Nevada. Prior to joining Crown Castle, she was a Davis City Councilmember from 2010 to 2018, serving as Mayor Pro Tempore in 2011 & 2012. During her time on Council, she also served as a founding board member of Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC). In her current role with Crown Castle, she enjoys serving on multiple committees associated with infrastructure, economic development and community resiliency. The core of her work involves working closely with community and policy leaders at all levels of government. For nearly twenty years she has focused on Land Use Planning and Telecommunications. Ms. Swanson earned her B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Davis and a Juris Doctor from University of the Pacific, McGeorge.



## **Jacob Mejia**

### **Vice President of Public and External Affairs Pechanga Development Corporation**



Jacob Mejia has over 20 years of experience in public affairs. He is currently the Vice President of Public and External Affairs for the Pechanga Development Corporation where he oversees media relations, government affairs, charitable giving, community relations, and communications. Since 2004, Jacob has also served as executive director of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), an intergovernmental association of federally recognized tribal governments in Southern California. Since that time he has helped to position TASIN as a leading voice in California for the rights of Indian Tribes.

Mejia has been involved in major public policy issues involving California Tribes for the last 20 years, including tribal-state compacts, online gaming, off-reservation gaming, the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, and sacred sites protection. Jacob has also served in a senior management capacity for nearly every statewide ballot measure campaign over Indian gaming in California.

Jacob has helped to strengthen government-to-government relations between tribes and local governments, helping to form the League of California Cities' Tribal Task Force and the Riverside County Tribal Task Force. He was also instrumental in securing a seat for tribal governments within the Southern California Association of Governments.

Jacob is a member of the board of Open California, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed in 2012 to continue – and expand on – important public policy work. He studied government at Claremont McKenna College. Jacob and his wife, Margaret, have a daughter.

---

## **Gayle Miller**

### **Chief Administrative Officer California Department of Finance**



Ms. Miller was appointed chief deputy of policy at the California Department of Finance in 2019. She had been senior policy advisor for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration since 2018. She was deputy controller, director of policy in the Office of the State Controller from 2017 to 2018. She served as a principal consultant in the Office of the California State Senate President pro Tempore from 2016 to 2018. She held several positions in the California State Senate, including consultant in the Office of Research from 2014 to 2016, staff director for the Governance and Finance Committee from 2006 to 2014 and principal consultant at the Revenue and Taxation Committee from 2001 to 2005. She was director of government affairs at Anthem Blue Cross from 2005 to 2006, legislative director in the Office of Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal from 1999 to 2001 and legislative aid and Assembly fellow in the Office of Assemblymember Tom Torlakson from 1997 to 1999. Miller earned a Master of Business Administration degree in strategy and communications from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Business Administration degree in economics and finance from Columbia University.

---

## Session 3

### Getting Schooled – The Promises and Pitfalls of Distance Learning

---

#### *Mark Warschauer*

**Professor of Education**

**UC Irvine**



Mark Warschauer is a Professor of Education at UC Irvine with an affiliated appointment in Informatics, and director of the Digital Learning Lab. He is one of the most widely-cited scholars in the world on digital learning topics such as computer-assisted language learning, digital literacy, the digital divide, one-to-one laptop classrooms, and artificial intelligence in education. His team is currently focusing on the use of conversational agents to support children’s learning and on the teaching and learning of computer science for linguistically diverse students.

A first generation college student and former community organizer for the United Farm Workers union, Dr. Warschauer began his educational career as a Spanish bilingual math and ESL teacher in San Francisco public schools. He has previously taught and conducted research in Hawaii, Moscow, Prague, Egypt, China, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, and Brazil. He has served as founding editor of Language Learning & Technology journal and inaugural editor of AERA Open. A former Fulbright Scholar and US Title VII Bilingual Education Fellow, he is a Fellow of the American Education Research Association and a Member of the National Academy of Education.

---

#### *Parvin Ahmadi*

**Superintendent**

**Castro Valley Unified School District**



Parvin Ahmadi is the Superintendent of the Castro Valley Unified School District. Superintendent Ahmadi has served students in public schools as a teacher, principal, director, assistant superintendent and the last eleven years, as a superintendent. In addition to her role as a Superintendent, Parvin Ahmadi has served as board member on State ACSA for the last three years and is currently ACSA’s President Elect. She has been an instructor for ACSA’s Superintendent Academy for the past nine years focusing on equity as instructional leader and supporting aspiring and new superintendents. Superintendent Ahmadi was appointed by Speaker Rendon, to the Speaker’s State Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood, representing California Superintendents, to help develop the current blueprint for serving children 0-5.

Parvin Ahmadi was selected as the Women of The Year in 2018 by Senator Weickowski for her work in public education and her advocacy for children and families in the Bay Area. Parvin Ahmadi is a fierce advocate for equity and public education and actively participates in several non profit organizations.

---

## Laurie Dodge

**Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Provost  
University of Massachusetts Global**

Laurie Graham Dodge Ph.D. Dr. Laurie Graham Dodge is the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at University of Massachusetts Global a private nonprofit affiliate of the University of Massachusetts system. She holds a Ph.D. in school psychology from Ball State University and previously served as a co-provost chair of the psychology department at Chapman University psychology professor for Chapman and a practicing school psychologist. Laurie helped lead the creation of more than 20 new online and hybrid degree programs of both competency-based and credit-hour modalities. Dr. Dodge recently published a book with two colleagues on competency-based education titled "A Leader's Guide to Competency-Based Education: From Inception to Implementation" and wrote a chapter on competency-based education in the book "The Urgency of Now: Equity and Excellence". At the national level she was the founding chair of the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN) and presently serves on the governing board for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). Dr. Dodge is the WSCUC Accreditation Liaison Officer for the university and a member of the Substantive Change Committee. In 2016 she was named one of "The Sixteen Most Innovative People in Higher Education" by Washington Monthly (2016).



---

## Session 4

### Checking up on Telemedicine – What's the Prognosis?

---

## Ashish Atreja, M.D.

**Chief Information and Digital Health Officer  
UC Davis Health**

Ashish Atreja, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., A.G.A.F., oversees UC Davis Health's expansion of its digital relationships with patients and with other hospitals, bridging the gap between IT, academia, research, and innovation as "Digital Davis" becomes a global hub for digital health.

Prior to his UC Davis Health appointment, Atreja, a gastroenterologist, served as the chief innovation officer for the Department of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. At Mount Sinai, Atreja established one of the first innovation hubs within an academic medical center to build and test disruptive digital health technologies – those that transform the industry. Atreja is credited with coining the term "Evidence-based Digital Medicine (EBDM)," and is often referred to as "the app doctor" for his work in pioneering digital therapeutics and prescribing mobile health apps for patients.

Prior to his work at Mount Sinai, Atreja was at the Cleveland Clinic, where he was Associate Program Director for Informatics Fellowship, led electronic health record implementation, and won an innovation award for developing one of the first virtual pager and messaging applications that was successfully licensed.

In 2016, Atreja established the non-profit Network of Digital Medicine (NODE.Health) Association to connect innovation centers worldwide and share best practices for evidence-based digital medicine between industry, payers



and health systems. Atreja has published 90 academic papers, received multiple NIH and industry grants, presented more than 200 abstracts, and has been a keynote speaker globally on digital health transformations.

Atreja has held key positions in many professional organizations, including in the American Gastroenterological Association and American College of Cardiology. He supported large-scale patient outreach programs during the COVID-19 pandemic through national and international coalitions, and was recently nominated among the Top 40 HealthCare Transformers. In addition to a medical degree, Atreja holds a master's in public health, and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

---

***Pooja Mittal, M.D.***

**Medical Director of Health Equity  
Health Net**

Dr. Pooja Mittal is the Chief Health Equity Officer (CHEO) for Health Net. She leads the company in developing, implementing, facilitating, and embedding health equity strategic initiatives into every aspect of Health Net's programs, services, actions and outcomes. Dr. Mittal joined the company in June 2016.



In addition to her role as CHEO, Dr. Mittal practices primary care at a Federally Qualified Health Center in San Mateo County and works at the National Clinicians Consultation Center at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). As a family physician and recognized national expert on Perinatal HIV care, she has a unique perspective to design strategic initiatives that improve care for California's most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Mittal also dedicates her time to increasing health equity through teaching the next generation of medical residents. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor at UCSF and Stanford University School of Medicine. In addition to her clinical work, she has been published in the areas of well-childcare, group visits, preconception care, health equity and perinatal HIV.

Dr. Mittal earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Boston University and her Doctor of Medicine from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences..

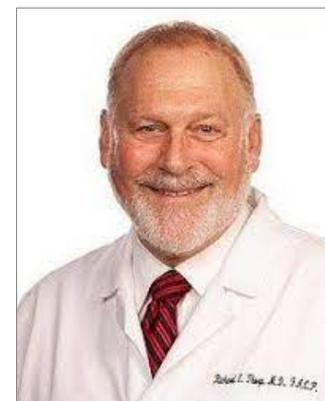
---

***Richard Thorp, M.D***

**Rural Physician and Former President of California Medical Association**

Dr. Thorp, an internist from Paradise, California, is past president of the Butte Glenn Medical Society and the California Medical Association. He is a Delegate to the American Medical Association

In 2013, Dr. Thorp served as the CMA's 146th President. He is the CEO of Paradise Medical Group, Inc., a physician-owned, multi-specialty primary care group incorporated in 2001. He also serves on Feather River Hospital's medical staff, as a medical director of a rural health clinic and private practice administration. Before the horrific fire that swept through Paradise, California in 2018, Paradise Medical Group served about 10,000 patients at three clinics. The largest clinic



was destroyed in the fire. Dr. Thorp and the doctors of Paradise Medical Group recently reopened one clinic as they work towards restoring health care services to residents affected by the deadly Camp Fire.

---

***Katie Heidorn***

**Executive Director  
Insure the Uninsured Project**



Katie Heidorn is Executive Director of Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP). Katie has nearly two decades of experience working in health policy, government, and non-profits and is a skilled leader, facilitator, and communicator. Prior to leading ITUP, Katie was a Government Affairs Advocate for Health Net and Development Director and policy lead at the nonprofit California Coverage and Health Initiatives. Katie spent a decade in California state government including as a Deputy Secretary for the California Health and Human Services Agency and Principal Consultant in the Senate Appropriations Committee. She is also an alumna of the California Senate Fellows Program. Katie received her master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and her bachelor’s of arts and sciences degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Comparative Literature from the University of California, Davis.

---

**Session 5**

**Ghosts in the Machine – Policymaking and the Telecommunications Industry**

---

***John Reynolds***

**Commissioner  
California Public Utilities Commission**



Commissioner John Reynolds was appointed to the CPUC by Governor Gavin Newsom on Dec. 23, 2021.

Commissioner Reynolds had previously served as Managing Counsel at Cruise LLC since 2019. Prior to that, he held multiple positions at the CPUC, including Interim Chief of Staff to Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma in 2018, Advisor to former Commissioner Carla J. Peterman from 2015 to 2018, and Public Utilities Counsel from 2013 to 2015. He was Associate at De la Pena & Holiday LLP in 2012. Commissioner Reynolds earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

---

## Robert Atkinson

President

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Dr. Robert D. Atkinson is one of the country's foremost thinkers on innovation economics. With an extensive background in technology policy, he has conducted ground-breaking research projects on technology and innovation, is a valued adviser to state and national policy makers, and a popular speaker on innovation policy nationally and internationally.



A sought-after speaker and valued adviser to policymakers around the world, Atkinson's most recent book, *Big is Beautiful: Debunking the Mythology of Small Business*, released March 2018. Before founding ITIF, Atkinson was Vice President of the Progressive Policy Institute and Director of PPI's Technology & New Economy Project.

He received his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and was named a distinguished alumnus in 2014. He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989.

---

## Chris Boyer

Vice President, Global Security and Technology Policy

AT&T

Chris Boyer is Vice President of Global Security and Technology Policy at AT&T Services, Inc., where he is responsible for the company's global policy positions related to cybersecurity, national security and technology policy.



Mr. Boyer works closely with the AT&T Chief Security Office (CSO) and AT&T Technology and Operations (ATO) to address policy issues at the intersection of emerging technology, cybersecurity and national security. In his over 25-year career with AT&T Mr. Boyer has performed a variety of roles including positions in the company's corporate public policy, network planning and engineering, product marketing and network services departments.

Mr. Boyer has also served in numerous external roles including as AT&T's point of contact with the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC), a Federal advisory committee advising the President on issues related to national security and emergency preparedness; former Chair of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB); former chair of the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCSA); and is the Founder and Chairman of the Open RAN Policy Coalition. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Communications Sector Coordinating Council (CSCC).

---

## *Janus Norman*

**President**

**California Cable & Telecommunications Association**

In May 2022 Mr. Norman was appointed President of the California Cable & Telecommunications Association.

Mr. Norman has over a decade of legislative and government experience in California, most recently serving as the Senior Vice President of the California Medical Association (CMA) where he oversaw all legislative and political activities for the organization. Prior to his role at CMA, he served as Legislative Advocate for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Judicial Council of California.

He received his BA from California State University, Sacramento and his MBA from University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.



---

## *Matthew Rantanen*

**Director of Technology for the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association and Director of the Tribal Digital Village**

Matthew R. Rantanen is the Director of Technology for the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) and Director of the Tribal Digital Village (TDVNet) Network/Initiative that was started in 2001 designing and deploying wireless networking to support the tribal communities of Southern California. He is also "Partnering and Business Development" for Arcadian Infracom, a fiber infrastructure company, drawing new lines on the map, empowering the unconnected. Matthew, of Finnish, Cree Indian, and Norwegian descent, has been described as a "cyber warrior for community networking." He is an advocate for net-neutrality, broadband for everyone, and opening more spectrum for public consumption, always looking out for the unserved and underserved.



Matthew has served as Chairman of the Board for (2) terms and is currently Vice-Chair and Treasurer on the board of directors for Native Public Media (NPM). He was named to the FCC Native Nations Broadband Task Force by FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, and completed 2nd term, having been renamed to the task force by FCC Chairman, Tom Wheeler. He also serves on the inaugural board of the American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) at Arizona State University.

Matthew is on the Tribal Advisory Group which advises the California First Responders Network (CalFRN), California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the CA Broadband Council to the Governor, as well as the Long-Term Task Force to the CA Broadband Council. Matthew works with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and is currently the Co-Chair of the Technology and Telecom Subcommittee and Co-Chair of their Technology Task Force. Matthew is on the Broadband Advisory Group for the Western Governor's Association. Matthew continues to develop policy and work with these partners in collaboration to get broadband deployed to the unserved and underserved communities.