2.5 GHZ RURAL TRIBAL WINDOW WEBINAR PANELISTS

Matthew R. Rantanen
Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA)
Director, TRIBAL DIGITAL VILLAGE Network (TDVNet)

Since 2001, designing & deploying wireless networking with tribal communities of SoCal. Director of Partnering & Business Development, ARCADIAN INFRACOM (arcadianinfra.com), fiber infrastructure company, building long-haul fiber assets to serve the needs of the companies driving the demand, dragging fiber through small-town USA, & Indian Country, providing opportunity to the unserved & underserved in rural America. Of Cree (First Nations, Canada), Finnish, and Norwegian descent, a "cyber warrior for community networking," considered an expert on community/Tribal wireless networking. An advocate for net-neutrality, broadband for everyone, & opening more spectrum for public consumption, always looking out for the unconnected. Matthew helps 20 SCTCA member tribes in technology development & strategy, bringing nations to current level of communications. Matthew is appointed Co-Chair of the Tech & Telecom Subcommittee of National Congress of American Indians, drafting telecom policy & promoting better opportunities with Tribes, engaging the Federal Government. He was named to the FCC Native Nations Broadband Task Force by the FCC Chairman in 2011, & then reappointed in 2014, serving 2 terms. He was also named to the Communications Security, Reliability & Interoperability Council's 4(CSRIC4) at the FCC in June 2013. He served 2 terms as Chairman of the Board @ Native Public Media (NPM), and 3 years as Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Matthew is a guest subject matter expert speaker on community networking & grassroots efforts to support unserved & under-served communities, emphasis on tribal communities, speaking to local and state governments, to Federal government departments & agencies. International speaking engagements: ICANN, Internet Governance Forum (UN), Indigenous Connectivity Summit (ISOC) Testified at hearings @ FCC, GAO & California Public Utilities Commission.

Geoffrey Cravatt Blackwell
Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel, AMERIND Risk Management Corp.

Mr. Blackwell joined AMERIND's executive team in October of 2015. He is the executive manager of AMERIND's Legal, Finance, IT, HR, Communications teams, as well as AMERIND's newest business providing broadband deployment expertise, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure. Mr. Blackwell is a recognized expert in tribal economic and corporate development as well as tribal telecommunications and broadband infrastructure deployment. He has testified before Congress on seven occasions, both as a tribal representative and as a senior federal policymaker. Over the past 20 years, he has participated extensively in international, national, and tribal conventions, seminars, webinars, trainings and federal-tribal consultations, as an expert speaker, moderator, conference host, and chairperson.

Mr. Blackwell is very active in Federal-Tribal policy advocacy, on a number of issues, especially those at the intersection of broadband deployment and meeting other tribal government missions and needs. He serves as Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee. He also Co-Chair's NCAI's Technology and Telecommunications Subcommittee. He is Vice-Chair of the American Indian Policy Institute of Arizona State University. He has formerly served on the Boards of Directors of the National Small Business Association, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Native Public

Media, and Acoma Pueblo Business Enterprises. Internationally, he has served as a Fellow, Indigenous Ambassador, and Fellowship Mentor of ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. He attended ICANN 60 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in 2017, and ICANN 61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2018. Mr. Blackwell is also a former North American Commissioner on the Indigenous Commission for Communications Technologies in the Americas (ICCTA). As a delegate representative of NCAI, he attended the 2005 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society II (WSIS-II), the seminal international convention where the UN created the Internet Governance Forum, the internet's international regulatory body.

From 2010 to 2015, Mr. Blackwell served as the founding Chief of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Office of Native Affairs and Policy in Washington, DC. During a prior tour of duty at the FCC, from 2000 to 2005, he was an FCC Senior Attorney and Liaison to Tribal Governments. He was the first enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe to work at the FCC. During his two separate tours of duty at the FCC he was responsible for developing regulations and programs deploying communications technologies to Tribal Nations, and for advising the Chair and entire FCC on federal Indian law, policy, and agency obligations. Mr. Blackwell worked extensively throughout the FCC and on seminal FCC tribal programs and policies, including Universal Service Fund programs and carrier designations, spectrum licensing, tower siting, and radio and TV broadcast licensing. He helped oversee the development of economic subsidy regulations for hundreds of telecommunications companies.

In between his two periods of federal service, Mr. Blackwell served as a Corporate Director at Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., helping structure, develop, and guide over a dozen LLCs and divisions, including multiple federal contracting companies. Prior to his federal service, he began his legal career in the Litigation Department of Hale and Dorr, LLP, in Boston (now Wilmer Hale), where he worked on a corporate litigation team defending the largest class action lawsuit in the history of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Raised in Oklahoma and New Mexico, Mr. Blackwell comes from a family of Tribal leaders and federal officials dedicated to service in Indian Country. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia School of Law. Mr. Blackwell is Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Omaha.

Sascha Meinrath
Palmer Chair in Telecommunications, Penn State
Director, X-Lab

Sascha Meinrath is the Palmer Chair in Telecommunications at Penn State and director of X-Lab, an innovative think tank focusing on the intersection of vanguard technologies and public policy. Professor Meinrath is a renowned technology policy expert and is internationally recognized for his work over the past two decades as a community internet pioneer, social entrepreneur, and angel investor.

Prior to founding X-Lab, Meinrath was vice president of the New America Foundation, where he founded the Open Technology Institute in 2008 and built it into one of the largest public interest tech policy organizations in Washington, D.C. He also founded the Commotion Wireless Project, which works around the globe to strengthen communities by providing tools to build their own local communications infrastructures, and co-founded Measurement Lab, a global online platform for researchers to deploy Internet measurement tools that empower the public and key decision-makers with useful information about broadband connectivity.

Professor Meinrath was elected as an Ashoka Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship in 2012, and has been named to the Time Magazine "Tech 40" as one of the most influential figures in technology, to the "Top 100" in Newsweek's Digital Power Index, and is a recipient of the Public Knowledge IP3 Award for excellence in public interest advocacy. He is widely published in both academic and media outlets, including Critical Studies in Media Communications, International Journal of Communications, Journal of Communications Law and Policy, Journal of Internet Law, Journal for Community Informatics, IEEE Internet Computing Magazine, IEEE Spectrum, Foreign Policy, The Hill, Time Magazine, Politico, Slate, The Guardian and many others.

Mr. Meinrath has been a vocal public intellectual and a leading voice calling for accountability over the governmental spying programs, and is at the forefront of D.C. policy debates over how Congress and the White House should rein in the cybersecurity-industrial complex. He serves as a board member for the American Indian Policy Institute, Brave New Software Foundation; Defending Rights and Dissent Foundation; Acorn Active Media Foundation; and Fourth Amendment Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the advisory councils for the Calyx Institute, FreedomBox Foundation, Loomio, and Whistleblower Aid.

Meinrath's research focuses on broadband connectivity, distributed communications, Digital Feudalism, Digital Craftsmanship, telecommunications and spectrum policy, cybersecurity and privacy, and the impacts of disruptive technology, and is a testament to his lifelong commitment to promoting social and economic justice -- values he embraced while attending an inner-city school in New Haven, Connecticut. The son of an immigrant from Brazil, Meinrath has four vivacious daughters and he and his partner, Stephanie, split their time between State College, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.