# PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

**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.

**Forest James**
**Chief Executive Officer, EnerTribe**

Forest is an enrolled citizen of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation located on the Oregon/California coastal border. Forest has spent half of his life in and around Tribal government and Tribal business. His recent efforts include helping provide broadband connectivity to indigenous communities across the country in support of education, remote medical consultation, and economic development. Forest is a noteworthy advocate for Tribal organizations, state and federal agencies, providers, and non-profits across the country, assisting with planning, funding, and deploying broadband infrastructure. Forest's background includes wireless engineering and the building of tribally chartered, turnkey telecommunications (or broadband) companies and Wireless Internet Service Providers.

**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.