Digital Sovereignty: The Role of Digital Inclusion in Native Nation Building
Panelists: Matthew Douglas (Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District), Debra Croswell (Cayuse Native Solutions), Brittany Woods-Orrison (Alaska Public Interest Research Group & Native Movement),
Moderator: Davida Delmar (Amerind Critical Infrastructure)
3/1, 10:00am to 11:30am CST

Notes

Celebration: First all Native panel in NDIA/Net Inclusion history

Digital Sovereignty: Power in ownership, can come in a lot of ways. Food, body sovereignty. Digitally sovereign is the ability to own our infrastructure. Also owning data - a lot of people have taken data without consent
- Digital sovereignty meaning is different across different communities
Associations of tribal programs with libraries
An effort coming from the tribal resources center, tribal resource.net
Whosland for travelers in U.S.A.

Matthew - Hoopa Valley BBC - Densely population/rural area. 60% poverty level. Multigenerational homes.
- 4% of communication was reaching through digital means (when trying to disseminate information) - had to use posters/fliers/word of mouth
- No physical addresses / post office not an option
- Current recipient of NDIA digital navigator program - sustainability of DI programming is new focus (very reliant on grants)
Tribal Broadband Bootcamp: How to maintain skill once trained?
Fiber vs. wireless - invest in both → Missing&murdered Indigenous women - need adequate service reach to lower risk of kidnap

Claudia Tarbell - Sr Engagement Mgr for Tribal Communities - Calix Inc
- Mohawk networks - tribally owned ISP
- Community members able to own businesses that are culturally relevant
- Gives people an option to make a living based on their culture
- Digital sovereignty through a strategic plan: what will limit Akwesasne's growth? Economic development officer reaching out - identified and applied for grants (for ISP or DI?) → $15 million grant - 80/20 reimbursement -
- Training people to be fiber technicians in community

Territory in both US/Canada (NY): Tribes wants funding for infrastructure, and **education to not be taken advantage of**

- When choosing vendor, what a good contractor & contract looks like -
- Sustainability: cannot sustain a business on > 600 subscribers
- Do not only want to serve tribal communities - extend to all residents in area

Alaska -

With building Broadband, have to know the land - sacred spots and appropriate places for infrastructure

How can states better partner with tribes? LISTEN! & learn

- Take the time to build a relationship, invite Native partners to the table
- Relationship with government & building infrastructure: EIS have to be done beforehand. Building on reservation with own money is quick, but very dependent on government funding & corresponding stipulations
- Checkerboard reservation - have to get landowner consent to move forward

Middle Mile Project - SB 156?

- Helpful to see own representation in decision-makers
- ACOMM

"Internet gives the power to [Native nations] to live off and thus preserve [their] culture" 💯

ATALM - libraries

Links

[Cayuse Native Solutions | Pendleton, OR](#)
[Acorn Wireless | Wireles   s internet for Hoopa.](#)