

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS FROM CONNECT TO COMPETE PARTNERS

Today, Chairman Genachowski joined executives and non-profit leaders from across the broadband ecosystem at the Pew Charitable Trust in Washington, D.C., where he applauded Connect to Compete. This is a first-of-its-kind national effort to address the barriers to broadband adoption, digital literacy and closing the employment skills gap.

Following the Chairman's remarks, Connect to Compete partners delivered brief statements about their commitments to help meet the broadband adoption challenge.

Kelley Dunne, CEO of One Economy, said, “We have never had a time where technology, policy and unprecedented need and opportunity have aligned to enable something that could be truly extraordinary. We are very honored to take a leadership role in continuing to make this dream a reality for all Americans and to create a network of digital inclusion and opportunity by focusing in on the neighborhoods that we are carving in versus carving out and creating digital opportunity where the digital divide used to reside.”

George Sherman, Senior Vice President of Best Buy Services, said, “Geek Squad is honored to bring our companywide-commitment to providing access for people to one another and the things they love through technology. Our Geek Squad Agents look forward to helping families use technology to close the gaps in distance, learning and opportunity.”

Sig Behrens, General Manager of U.S. Education at Microsoft, said, “Microsoft supports the FCC’s ‘Connect to Compete’ initiative that strives to bring all Americans access to broadband, computers, software and the knowledge needed to learn, connect and compete in the global market. Knowing how to communicate and share ideas using technology is a critical factor to being qualified for many high-paying jobs that even today are going unfulfilled.”

Hope Gurion, Chief Development Officer at CareerBuilder, said, “Even with millions of Americans unemployed, our recent survey found that nearly three-in-ten employers say they have open positions for which they can't find qualified candidates. We are committed to helping job seekers across the country identify the most in-demand positions using our new ‘Skills Gap Monitor,’ which will help ‘reskill’ them and connect with the companies looking to hire.”

David Zaslav, President and CEO of Discovery Communications, said, “Educating and making a difference has been at the core of Discovery’s mission of satisfying curiosity since day one. Discovery Communications and our Discovery Education division are proud to honor that commitment through our partnership with FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and other like-minded organizations as part of the *Connect to Compete* initiative. We look forward to contributing broadband video and digital educational content to this effort and to working with partner organizations to build additional resources to empower parents and caregivers with content and infrastructure to support our children’s academic and social achievements.”

Patrick Manzo, Executive Vice President of Monster.com, said, “For many Americans, having access to technology and resources to identify suitable opportunities is a powerful way to help close the employment gap. There are millions of open positions available right now; the trick is having the data, insight and tools to connect with those opportunities, and to do it more quickly. We are confident that we can make a meaningful impact with Monster’s expertise, knowledge of the labor market and unique job search and matching capabilities. We’re pleased to support the FCC’s initiative along with a group of like-minded companies.”

Susan Hildreth, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services, said, “A primary goal of the Institute of Museum and Library Service is to ensure equitable access to information. Today, digital literacy is a basic skill for success and essential for full civic and economic participation in American society. I am pleased that libraries' roles as community anchors are recognized as this partnership is launched and developed. A recent study estimated that more than 77 million people used library computers last year for training, education, job and health information and much more. The capacity of libraries -- their technology, staff and physical presence in communities across the country -- are tremendous assets in this effort.”

Paula Ellis, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, said, “Two years ago, the policy recommendations of the Knight Commission on Information Needs put broadband access on the national agenda. *Connect to Compete* is an opportunity to build on these recommendations and create real change to help ensure that all Americans can use the Internet to improve their lives and their community.”

Angela Selden, Co-Chairman of Arise Virtual Solutions for Arise Virtual Solutions, said, “By supporting broadband access across America, including in rural communities, the FCC is enabling the future of work through virtualization and online digital training. As the world’s leading provider of virtualization services, Arise is proud to support *Connect to Compete* by offering a virtual classroom platform and to contribute its own instructors to provide hundreds of hours of live, online training to help job seekers develop the customer service and interpersonal skills required to succeed in the new global economy.”

Brian S. Lee, President and CEO of MetrixLearning, said, “Metrixlearning is proud to participate in the *Connect to Compete* program. Our goal is to help Americans get back to work by allowing the unemployed the opportunity to upgrade basic job skills via the Internet.”

Francesco Lecceso, BrainFuse Director, said, “Our JobNow service as helped thousands of people across the country find jobs, but many of the people who would benefit most from JobNow are those who are least able to afford it. For this reason, we’re excited to work with *Connect to Compete* to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, has access to JobNow’s online career coaches and resume experts.”

To learn more about the *Connect to Compete* program, visit www.connect2compete.org or www.fcc.gov

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