

**REMARKS OF  
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL  
COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING GALA  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD  
WASHINGTON, DC  
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

Thank you Noelle for your kind remarks. Thank you to The Committee for Education Funding for this Special Recognition Award. Thank you all for being here and for what you do.

When I came to the FCC as a Commissioner, I was a gadget geek, a wireless policy nerd, a fan of devices, and a devotee of new technologies. But I also wanted the agency where I work to think beyond technology—and think about the opportunities technology can provide.

So I came to your community. I came to many of the people sitting here in this room with some thoughts about what we could do at the intersection of technology and education.

Here's something I learned. It's good to have friends in Washington—but it's better to have an army. And over the last few years you and thousands of others who are deeply invested in our schools, our students, and the future of education came together and put E-Rate reform at the top of the agenda in Washington.

As a result, we rebooted the E-Rate program—from front to back. That means we are doing more to get every school in this country connected to really high-speed broadband and Wi-Fi. And with greater connectivity comes greater digital age opportunity—for every school, for every student. Success is sweet.

But no rest for the weary. Because now I hope you can soldier on and help bring connectivity home. That's because teachers everywhere assign homework today that requires Internet access. Yet there are students in 5 million households across the country who lack access at home—and as a result cannot do basic schoolwork.

This gap in Internet access—what I call the Homework Gap—needs to be addressed. Because it's the cruelest part of our new digital divide. But I think—I know—with the help of the people in this room we are going to find a way to take it on, close this gap, and bridge this divide. I look forward to working with everyone in this room to make it happen.

Thank you for this award. Thank you for the work you do, for your commitment to education—and technology. Thank you for helping make the future possible.