



- 7:15AM Registration Opens, sponsored by Millennium
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- MILLENNIUM
- 7:15AM – 8:00AM Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors, Sponsored by Power & Tel
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- 8:00AM – 8:07AM **Welcome & Introduction:** Gary Bolton, President & CEO, Fiber Broadband Association
- 8:07AM – 8:10AM **Platinum Sponsor Welcome & Introductions**
- Ashley Brown, Senior Director, Field Marketing, Adtran
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- 8:10AM – 8:40AM **Opening Keynote: Bringing Rural America into the Network**
Patricia Dominguez, State Director, New Mexico State Office | Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture
- 8:40AM – 9:20 AM **A Case in Point: Creating Opportunities and Connections in Chickasaw County**
Chickasaw Country lacked a true fiber-based broadband provider for far too long. Trace Fiber Networks (TFN), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chickasaw Nation (CN), changed that by installing a ‘future-proof’ fiber network in its communities. TFN’s initial project included a middle mile network, which began operation in 2020 and is now the backbone of its efforts to connect the 30 communities it serves. TFN’s fiber network is essential to enabling residents to take advantage of quality of life-enhancing resources, such as Telehealth services and remote employment opportunities. This panel will discuss how the team at TFN worked collaboratively with Tribal leaders and community leaders, as well as other partners, to bridge the technology gap that is negatively affecting the small towns and rural communities.
Moderator: Richard M. Williams, Conference Program Director, FBA
Panelists:
- Josh Snow, President, Trace Fiber Networks
 - Chris Shilling, Undersecretary of Technology/Innovation, Chickasaw Nation
- 9:20AM – 9:25AM **Dr. Charles Kao Award – Larry Sevier, former CEO and General Manager, Nex-Tech**
Presented by Gary Bolton, President and CEO, FBA
- 9:25AM **Breakfast Sponsor Remarks – Power & Tel**
- 9:25AM – 10:00AM *Networking Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by TAK Communications*

10:00AM **Networking Break Sponsor Remarks** – Rebecca Denman, Vice President of Business Development, TAK Communications



10:00AM – 10:50AM **Federal and State Funding: Taking Nothing for Granted**
NTIA BEAD, FCC ACP, and other federal and state funding programs will help network operators and Tribal Nations stretch their networks further and faster. How can operators best leverage these opportunities through the grant process and get access to the funds each needs to expand its footprint, reach more customers, and overcome challenges along the way? This panel will dive into the grant process, sharing tips, tricks, and best practices based on what's worked, what has not, and what each expects as new funding opportunities emerge.

Moderator: Claudia Tarbell, Senior Manager, Field Marketing, Tribal & Indigenous Communities, Calix

Panelists:

- Mitch Hibbard, Chief Operating Officer, Peñasco Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Daniel Meszler, General Manager, Tularosa Communications
- Nectarios “Neo” Nicolaou, Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer/General Manager, Commnet Broadband and Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.
- Richard Jaramillo, Broadband Director, Pueblo of Isleta

10:50AM – 11:30AM **Fiber Broadband Ecosystem: Who's on First?**
As fiber broadband operators look to expand, having the right team in the field is critical to success. This includes a focused effort on internal workforce development programs and having the right partners throughout the process of planning, designing, building, and fulfillment of fiber broadband services. This panel of industry experts will share insights, best practices, and lessons learned as each has built teams that have allowed their company to win market share, create sticky services, and keep customers on net.

Moderator: Joe Baeumel, VP, Business Development and Partner Strategy, KGPCo.

Panelists:

- Sachin Gupta, Vice President, Business and Technology Strategies, Centranet
- Jaime Espinosa, Director, Market Strategy & Partners, Underline Inc.
- Jose Lovato, Broadband Manager, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc.

11:30AM – 12:00PM **Fireside Chat: New Mexico's Broadband Priorities**
Drew Lovelace, Acting Director and Victory Quintana, Broadband Tribal Coordinator with the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, Connect New Mexico with Ashley Brown, Senior Director of Field Marketing, Adtran and FBA Board of Directors

12:00PM **Lunch Sponsor Remarks** - Scott Jackson, National Market Manager, Graybar, FBA Board Member



12:00PM – 12:45PM *Networking Lunch-Sponsored by Graybar/Ciena*

12:45PM – 1:15PM *Networking Dessert with Exhibitors*

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Wi-Fi Sponsored by: The Kelley Drye logo features the name 'Kelley Drye' in a blue, sans-serif font. The word 'Kelley' is on the top line and 'Drye' is on the bottom line. The 'y' in 'Drye' has a green tail that extends downwards.

- 1:15PM – 1:45PM **Afternoon Keynote/Fireside Chat: Tribal Broadband: The How, When, and Where**
Margaret Gutierrez, Acting Division Chief, Tribal Broadband Connectivity and Nation-to-Nation Coordination Division, NTIA, OICG, U.S. Department of Commerce with Robert Griffin, Tribal Broadband Director, The Choctaw Nation
- 1:45PM – 2:30PM **Deployment Challenges and Opportunities: Tribal Considerations and Expectations**
Broadband deployment on Tribal lands creates a unique set of challenges and opportunities for Tribal nations that are building and deploying their own networks or forming a partnership with one or more other entities, including other Tribes or other commercial providers. Providers wishing to develop broadband infrastructure on Tribal lands must secure rights-of-way to lay their lines. This panel of Tribal broadband experts will uncover sustainable paths forward to connect Tribal communities with fiber broadband in accordance with individual nation laws and customs.
Moderator: Brendan O’Boyle, National Sales Manager, PLP, FBA Deployment Specialist Committee Chair
Panelists:
- Bill Valentino, Vice President, Development, DYCOM
 - Brian Fickett, General Manager, Tohono O’odham Utility Authority
 - Phoebe Suina, Owner, Project Manager, and Hydrologist, High Water Mark
- 2:30PM – 3:00PM *Networking Break with Exhibitors sponsored by TAK Communications*
- 3:00PM **Networking Reception Sponsor Remarks – Steve Kielley, Sales Director, Cambium Networks**
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- 3:00PM – 3:35PM **Fireside Chat: What Tribes Should Know about USF High-Cost Programs and the National Broadband Map**
Kenneth Akini, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission with Evann Freeman, Vice President of Government and Community Relations, EPB and FBA Board of Directors
- 3:35PM – 4:15PM **Tribal Broadband: Ensuring Communities Have Capacity to Thrive**
The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a \$3 billion program, from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, to support Tribal governments bringing high-speed Internet to Tribal lands, including telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and digital inclusion initiatives. This panel of Tribal broadband representatives will discuss the unique requirements of building networks on Tribal lands, key factors for strong partnerships, and how each sees fiber broadband impacting their members over the next decade.
Moderator: Robert Griffin, Tribal Broadband Director, The Choctaw Nation
Panelists:
- Brian Thomason, Deputy General Manager, Communications Systems Division, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
 - Dr. Jim Trumbly, Tribal Business Development Manager, Tribal Ready
 - Godfrey Enjady, General Manager, Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc.
- 4:15 **Closing Remarks**

4:15PM – 5:15PM

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