

Bridging the Digital Divide

DIGITAL EMPOWERS U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION tcs TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES C_TEC

**Advancing Access and Adoption at the Local Level:
Scoping the Digital Equity Problem for Students, Businesses, and Communities**

Alicia Matthews
Vice President, Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, Comcast NBCUniversal

Chad A. Rupe
Administrator for Rural Utilities Service, USDA

Swamy Kocherlakota
Executive Vice President and Global CIO, S&P Global

Jordan Crenshaw
Executive Director and Policy Counsel, C_TEC, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

22:05 / 1:14:00

Right now, school districts grapple with virtual learning, and tens of millions of Americans work from home. High-speed broadband, digital fluency, and personal technology are determining our ability to participate in economic and civic life. It is more important than ever in the wake of the pandemic that all communities have access to the internet.

Leaders from Comcast NBCUniversal, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), S&P Global, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and Land O’Lakes, Inc. highlighted successful cross-sector partnerships to address the digital divide this week during a conversation hosted by the U.S. Chamber Foundation and Tata Consultancy Services, in collaboration with the Foundation’s Center for Education and Workforce and the U.S. Chamber Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC).

Big picture: Without access to digital opportunities, historically marginalized, rural, and low-income communities will be limited in social and economic outcomes for decades to come.

“While potential is equally distributed in every individual around the world, opportunity is not equally distributed. And it’s even more important in today’s world that access to that opportunity is not stopped because of lack of access to the Internet,” said Balaji Ganapathy, Global Head, CSR and Chief Social Responsibility Officer, Tata Consultancy Services.

Dig deeper:

- Watch the [full event](#).
- Check out C_TEC’s recent [policy recommendations for closing the digital divide in rural America](#).

