

## Connected? Broadband Access Remains a Challenge

### Speakers

#### **Ross Ramsey- Texas Tribune (Moderator)**



Ross Ramsey is executive editor and co-founder of The Texas Tribune. Before joining the Tribune, Ross was editor and co-owner of Texas Weekly for 15 years. He did a 28-month stint in government as associate deputy comptroller for policy and director of communications with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Before that, he reported for the Houston Chronicle from its Austin bureau and for the Dallas Times Herald, first on the business desk in Dallas and later as its Austin bureau chief, and worked as a Dallas-based freelance business writer, writing for regional and national magazines and newspapers. Ross got his start in journalism in broadcasting, covering news for radio stations in Denton and Dallas.

**Andrew Quick- Entergy-** will showcase how Entergy is exploring both philanthropic and corporate roles to expand broadband in the company's footprint of MS, AR and LA.



Andy Quick has been with Entergy for 24 years and is currently a director at Key String Labs, an innovation incubator for new products and services that deliver incremental value to Entergy's stakeholders. While at Entergy, Andy has held numerous leadership positions in finance, shared services, and IT. Most notably, he launched and led a finance robotic process automation program, held two business unit CIO positions, directed Entergy's telecommunications and data center operations, and served on the leadership team of Entergy Solutions, a startup retail energy business in Texas.

Prior to joining Entergy, Andy worked for Andersen Consulting (Accenture) where he was an IT consultant for global, multi-industry companies.

Andy is an adjunct instructor at Tulane University and University of New Orleans where he teaches robotic process automation (RPA) courses. Andy also volunteers as an executive mentor to business school students at Loyola University.

Andy holds a B.S. in computer science from Louisiana State University and an MBA from Tulane University. Andy is a certified Automation Anywhere RPA trainer and the winner of the inaugural Automation Anywhere Bot Games competition in 2018.

Outside of work, Andy enjoys spending time with his wife and four daughters.

Entergy Corporation (NYSE: ETR) is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including 8,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, Entergy delivers electricity to 2.9 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of \$11 billion and approximately 13,600 employees.

**Cory Anderson- Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation-** will highlight the creation of a loan guarantee to expand broadband in Arkansas.

Cory is a relentless collaborator. He builds and maintains local and national partnerships, launches bold initiatives, and strategizes to ensure the Foundation pursues equity for all Arkansans. In addition to his role as Chief Innovation Officer at the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Cory also serves as the interim executive director of ForwARd Arkansas. Cory understands collaboration because it has been his career. For seven years at The Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland, he supported state-level child advocacy organizations and helped lead the KIDSCOUNT Initiative. He is currently a BME Public Voices Fellow. He also serves on the boards of Arkansas Baptist College, the Urban League of Arkansas, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, and Neighborhood Funders Group.

**Alvin Warren- LANL Foundation-** will highlight and discuss what is happening around broadband in New Mexico.



Full Version: Alvin is a member of Santa Clara Pueblo where he lives with his wife Pamela, an Isleta Pueblo tribal member, and their three children. He's vice president of Career Pathways and Advocacy for the LANL Foundation. Alvin is a former cabinet secretary of Indian Affairs for the State of New Mexico, lieutenant governor of Santa Clara, program officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, national Tribal Lands Program director for The Trust for Public Lands and land claims / water rights coordinator for Santa Clara. During his career Alvin has helped: tribes across the United States regain and protect traditional lands; ensure over \$120 million in state dollars flowed to tribes to build essential infrastructure; enact state legislation establishing a framework for collaborative state-tribal governmental relations; develop and sustain tribal immersion and dual language schools and positively transform public narratives about indigenous peoples. Alvin is the president of the Khap'o Community School Board and serves on Dartmouth College's Native American Visiting Committee, the New Mexico Census 2020 Complete Count Commission, the Native American Relief Fund's advisory committee, the New Mexico Census Funders' executive committee and the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples' Board of Directors. He's also actively involved in the cultural life of his community and a longtime farmer.

Short Version: Alvin is a member of Santa Clara Pueblo where he lives with his wife Pamela, an Isleta Pueblo tribal member, and their three children. He's vice president of Career Pathways and Advocacy for the LANL Foundation and has served as a former cabinet secretary of Indian Affairs for the State of New Mexico, lieutenant governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, program officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and national Tribal Lands Program director for The Trust for Public Lands.

## **Description**

As we continue to see a record number of COVID-19 cases throughout the United States, it is imperative that we stay in, stay social distance, and stay connected through high-speed internet access. Internet access is essential to conduct daily, routine activities online such as learning, basic services, telemedicine, and work requirements in some cases, it is simply hard to come by for so many individuals. Those without access to this online world – more than [18 million Americans with 14 million living in rural areas](#), according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – risk falling farther behind.

On January 27, join AFN as Ross Ramsey, executive director and co-founder of the The Texas Tribune interviews Andrew Quick from Entergy, Cory Anderson with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and Alvin Warren with the LANL Foundation to discuss what grantmakers are doing

to bust through barriers and expedite broadband access. The conversation will highlight how funders must act to ensure communities who were already struggling are not further disenfranchised and left behind. The panel will showcase examples of how philanthropy is acting to leverage federal broadband investments, creating loan-loss funds to speed up broadband infrastructure, and partnering with corporate entities to ensure access in rural communities. Register now to ensure you are part of this exciting conversation and explore your role in addressing the connectivity issue to help close the digital divide that is more prominent now than ever.