



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

OVER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO AMERICA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

News Advisory

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP/IT CONFERENCE ALERT

Washington D.C. August 27, 2018 — Two centuries, the first marked by the Industrial Revolution, and in our days the unfinished, perhaps little apt ever to be finished, Information Revolution — Dialogue on Diversity in focuses its spotlight on Entrepreneurship and Information Technology.

A broad introductory commentary opens the day's proceedings as **Gregory L. Rohde**, former chief at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the DOC, reviews the technological frontier, with the prospects of vastly greater speeds and capacities, but also offers seasoned views of the significance in the larger of vistas of history and philosophical thought of the foundation shaking effects of the IT revolution.

Invitation has gone out to the remarkable **Ms. Claudia Ivonne Canjura de Centeno**, the former Ambassador of El Salvador to Russia, where she opened the new Salvadoran Embassy at the outset of a four-years' stint, and since 2016 Ambassador to the United States, to join us with insights into the state of the small business infrastructure of this key Central American country, a leading territory in the Central American Federation that first gained independence (1821).

Midday session speaker **Justin Vélez-Hagan**, heading the National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, offers an update and a look ahead in PR's mammoth task of reconstruction of a depleted infrastructure further crippled by the storms exactly one year ago – an Island pressed, moreover, by intractable financial strains, with all prospect of necessary federal aid continuing to look dubious. Policy measures requiring innovative genius are the order of the day.

The Dialogue's Corporate Excellence Award, presented at the Midday Session, goes to the young management expert **Laura Berrocal**, a speaker at previous Entrepreneurship programs, and now Senior Director for Policy and External Affairs at the IT giant Charter Communications.

Luís Borunda, Deputy Secretary of State of Maryland, and long time leader in metro small business organizations, reviews the necessary decisions and preparations the beginning entrepreneur is faced with: sufficient capital, legal business form, and more. **Sharon Pinder**, head of the Minority Supplier Development Council, a key supplier diversity agency, offers the insights of an extensive career for civil rights and small business advancement in the Maryland, suburban Virginia, and Washington metro area.

Katherine Mereand, heading the District of Columbia's Office of Innovation and Equitable Development, a specialized organ in the city's Small and Local Business Department, sets out a bill of insightful programs, many animated by her creative flair, that brighten the D.C. entrepreneurial scene.

The versatile organizational powerhouse that is our friend **Bacilia Angel**, serves as Lead Systems Engineer at the Mitre Corporation, principally exploring the extensive health research in which the famed non-profit research and engineering dynamo is deeply engaged. She forges progress at once as Board member for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Alicia C. Lane ("AC"), leading off the final session, has turned her considerable energies to the rewarding task of introducing the very youngest, girls from grades 4 to 8, to Coding skills, the favored gateway to the larger treasures of modern IT. Coding is again the theme, here for students and young adults, many of them rising figures in government service, as **Dwight Barbour**, IT entrepreneur extraordinary, and expert in various facets of IT, inclusive of the new fast-paced science of IoT (Internet of Things) systems, outlines the systematic curricula offered by the growing network of technological services training centers, represented along with other coding schools, in their rapid proliferation around the country, Mr. Barbour and his D.C. colleagues very much in the lead.

The formal agenda, winding up at 2:30 p.m., continues with further explorations of these topics, followed by a reception, at a nearby Capitol Hill palace of cocina Mexicana.