Speak Up 2020 Congressional Briefing Release of the National Findings October 21, 2020



Today's Speakers:

Julie A. Evans, Ed.D. Chief Executive Officer, Project Tomorrow

Dr. Julie A. Evans is the CEO of Project Tomorrow and is the founder of the heralded Speak Up Research Project which annually collects and reports on the authentic views of 400,000 K-12 students, parents and educators on key education issues each year. Dr. Evans serves as the chief researcher on the Speak Up Project as well as leading research efforts on the impact of innovative learning models and interventions in both K-12 and higher education. Over the past 17 years, almost 6 million K-12 students, teachers and parents have participated in the Speak Up Project representing over 35,000 schools from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and around the world. Dr. Evans is the longest serving woman executive in the education technology nonprofit sector.

Prior to this position, Dr. Evans enjoyed a successful career in national and regional sales and marketing management with Unisys and two education technology startups. As a thought leader and influencer, she brings to new discussions insights from her experiences within the technology industry, entrepreneurship, nonprofit management, and education research. Dr. Evans is a graduate of Brown University and earned her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, San Diego and California State University San Marcos. She serves on several boards and advisory and is a frequent speaker and writer on new learning models within education, most notably around digital learning. Among her many accolades and awards, Dr. Evans was named in April 2020 as the winner of EdTech Digest's National Leader award.

Jessica Rosenworcel Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

Federal Communications Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel believes that the future belongs to the connected. She works to promote greater opportunity, accessibility, and affordability in our communications services in order to ensure that all Americans get a fair shot at 21st century success. She believes strong communications markets can foster economic growth and security, enhance digital age opportunity, and enrich our civic life.

From fighting to protect net neutrality to ensuring access to the internet for students caught in the Homework Gap, Jessica has been a consistent champion for connecting all. She is a leader in spectrum policy, developing new ways to support wireless services from Wi-Fi to video and the internet of things. She also is responsible for developing policies to help expand the reach of broadband to schools, libraries, hospitals, and households across the country.

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Named as one of POLITICO's 50 Politicos to Watch and profiled by InStyle Magazine in a series celebrating "women who show up, speak up and get things done," Jessica brings over two decades of communications policy experience and public service to the FCC. Prior to joining the agency, she served as Senior Communications Counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, under the leadership of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV and Senator Daniel Inouye. Before entering public service, Jessica practiced communications law in Washington, DC. She is a native of Hartford, Connecticut. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University and New York University School of Law. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband Mark, and children Caroline and Emmett.

Christina Fleming Vice President, Blackboard K-12

Christina Fleming is Vice President of K-12 Product Management and Marketing at Blackboard. In this capacity, Christina oversees management of Blackboard's education technology portfolio designed for K-12. This includes the Blackboard Learn and Blackboard Classroom Learning Management Systems, as well as various communication tools including Blackboard Connect and the Blackboard Communications Suite. She is responsible for managing the product roadmap, the overall K-12 P&L, as well as marketing strategy and client communications.

Prior to joining the K-12 team at Blackboard, Christina was responsible for leading the Marketing and Enrollment Services division within Blackboard Success Services. In this capacity, Christina led consulting initiatives offering strategic marketing and enrollment planning services to Higher Education clients. She served as executive sponsor on Marketing and Enrollment initiatives providing strategic guidance and client support. She led mission-critical projects on behalf of George Mason University, Georgetown University, Texas Tech University, Ivy Tech Community College, Delaware State University, The University of Arkansas, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, to name a few. She also previously served as the Sr. Director of Brand Strategy and Creative at Blackboard. In this capacity, Christina managed the company's global branding efforts and oversaw the operations of Blackboard's internal Creative Services team.

Prior to Blackboard, Christina served as Vice President of Product Marketing and Customer Communications at a telecommunications start-up for 5 years. Prior to her work at the start-up, she spent 7 years in Product Marketing working in telecommunications at MCI. Christina has a Bachelor's in Business with a concentration in Marketing from The University of Notre Dame. She lives in Maryland.