



DENVER ▲ 23

CABLE TV PIONEERS
57TH ANNUAL BANQUET

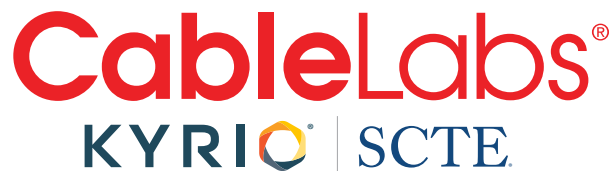
MONDAY ▲ OCTOBER 16 ▲ 2023

Congratulations!

Steve Harris

Cable TV Pioneer
Class of 2023

Thank you for your leadership,
determination and mentorships
that have enhanced the
cable industry.



WELCOME TO THE 57TH ANNUAL CABLE TV PIONEERS INDUCTION CELEBRATION

Class of 2023 Induction Gala

Welcome
What is a Pioneer?
Our Sponsors
How It All Began
Officers and Managing Board
Presenting the Class of 2023
Congratulations to the 25th Anniversary Class of 1998
In Memoriam
Active Pioneers

2023 Celebration Executive Committee

Jim Gleason
Yvette Kanouff
Dave Fellows
Patricia Kehoe
Matt Polka
Susan Bitter Smith
Jim Faircloth
Tracy Baumgartner

Thanks to our Program Book Sponsor





SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

WHAT IS A PIONEER?


The Cable TV Pioneers are a uniquely independent non-profit organization. We are not a trade association, nor are we an ancillary arm of any corporation. We are a socially motivated group of men and women who celebrate the accomplishments of our peers, just as our founders intended nearly six decades ago.

So, what is a Pioneer? In our estimation, a Pioneer is a great friend, wonderful entrepreneur, dedicated worker, and selfless and generous in actions and deeds. Pioneers are found at all levels of our business, from technicians to presidents, from salespeople to researchers. Today, the values of the early Pioneers are solid. We remain totally independent. Members, not their companies, pay their dues. Members, not their companies, nominate and sponsor inductees.

As the years have gone by, the Pioneers have evolved to expand their annual social event to include sponsors and friends. Our modest dues, banquet sponsorships, and volunteer contributions of our board allow us to offer one of the most top-notch events of the year, at affordable prices for all. All of this is done to maintain an independent celebration, free of political and corporate influence.

Enjoy the celebration!


Yvette Kanouff
Chair


Jim Gleason
Vice-Chair





THE FOUNDING PIONEERS



IN MEMORIAM THE CLASS OF 1966

M. William Adler	Albert J. Kozminski/ Malin	E. Stratford Smith, Esq.
George J. Barco, Esq.		Fred J. Stevenson
Charles E. Clements	Martin F. Malarkey	Robert J. Tarlton
Benjamin J. Conroy, Jr.	Bruce Merrill	Archer S. Taylor
Jack R. Crosby	Sanford F. Randolph	Frank P. Thompson
Bill Daniels	Albert J. Ricci	Edward P. Whitney
Glenn H. Flinn	Gene W. Schneider	
Fred Lieberman	Hon. Milton J. Shapp	

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It was 1966: the Beach Boys and Beatles rocked the music world; the Mustang was the envy of the roads; and the Cable TV Pioneers started a tradition that would resonate throughout the upcoming decades.

During the 1966 NCTA Convention held at the Americana Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, 21 early entrepreneurs of the Cable TV industry met to become the first Cable Pioneers' class. Most of those Pioneers are responsible for building the systems and MSOs that would become the nucleus of today's modern cable broadband industry.

At that first meeting, Mr. Stanley Searle, who helped propose the formation of the group, presented each member with a "Pioneer" plaque. From the original 21, membership has grown to almost 700 talented and accomplished individuals. To be included in the Pioneers, members must meet a rigorous standard of business, community and family service, and be nominated and sponsored.

In addition to their individual achievements supporting the industry, the Cable Pioneers have been responsible for establishing and funding the Cable Center. Originally located at Penn State, the Cable Center was moved to the campus of The Denver University in the 1990s. Following the Center's grand opening, the Cable Pioneers initiated a further recognition of exemplary service to the cable TV industry through the "Cable Hall of Fame" program, which recognizes many Cable TV Pioneers.



CABLE TV PIONEERS OFFIC

ERS & MANAGING BOARD



Yvette Kanouff
Chair



Jim Gleason
Vice Chair



Matthew M. Polka
Secretary Treasurer



Jim K. Faircloth
Executive Director



David M. Fellows
Director



Patricia A. Kehoe
Director



Sean McGrail
Director



Lisa W. Schoenthaler
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Susan Bitter Smith
Director



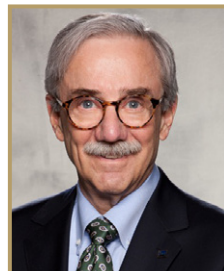
John G. Pascarelli
Director



Patty McCaskill
Director



Frank M. Drendel
Director



Michael L. Pandzik
(Deceased) - Director



Michelle Rice
Class Representative



Tracy Baumgartner
Class Representative

THE CABLE TV PIONEERS
PROUDLY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE



AND CONGRATULATE OUR FELLOW PIONEERS
AND 2023 HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Tom Adams

Wonya Lucas

Doug Holloway

Italia Commisso Weinand

Bresnan Ethics in Business
Award Honoree **David Van Valkenburg**



THE MANAGING BOARD OF THE CABLE TV PIONEERS

PRESENT

THE CLASS OF 2023



MARC EDWIN ALDRICH

Sponsored by
Ken Klaer & Kip Compton

Marc Aldrich is General Manager, Global Media, Entertainment & Sports for Amazon Web Services. He joined AWS in February of 2019 after spending

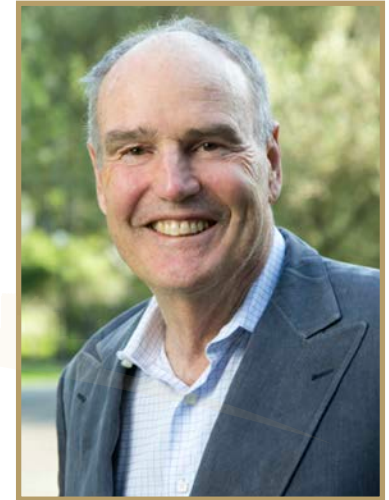
two decades in executive roles with Cisco. Marc joined Cisco in August of 1995, rapidly moving through the ranks from Sales Director to Area Vice President, North American Cable, then to Senior Vice President, Americas Global Service Providers.

In 1996, Marc facilitated Technical Advisory Group discussions with industry CTOs for standardizing high-speed data transfer, ultimately leading to the creation of DOCSIS. He established Cisco’s first dedicated field sales and engineering organization, growing it from a four-person team to a global organization in less than five years. During this period, Marc helped bring Cisco’s engineering team together with Sony, Toshiba, and Panasonic on reference design architecture for consumer cable modems.

Marc served as an Executive Board member of Women in Cable & Telecommunications (WICT) from 2013 through 2019, and has been a strong advocate for diversity. He is a long-time member of SCTE and was a Cable PAC Board member from 2014 to 2016. Marc currently serves as an Executive Sponsor for Amazon’s internal LGBTQ+ community and helps sponsor events for the Boston Chapter.

RICHARD BEAHR

Sponsored by
Del Henry & Peter Frame



Richard (“Dick”) Beahr was Court TV President until his retirement in 2004. He had previously been the network’s Chief Operating Officer. After an early

career in the publishing world with Life Magazine and Sports Illustrated, Dick joined Home Box Office as Senior Vice President for Marketing and Sales for Cinemax. He was elevated to President of HBO’s Comedy Channel Network in 1989, and to Senior Vice President of New Channel Development for HBO in 1991. In this role, Dick coordinated the launch of the Spanish language HBO network.

Dick received NCTA’s Vanguard Award for Government and Community Relations in 2008, and the Golden Beacon Award from the Cable Television Public Affairs Association (CTPAA) while with Court TV in 2000. As a cable programming executive, leader and mentor to many, Dick was an active supporter of Cable in the Classroom for many years.

Outside of the industry, Dick has served on numerous advisory boards for the University of California at Berkeley, including the Berkeley Foundation to the College of Natural Resources. He was Chairman of the Arbor Day Foundation in 2005 – 2006 and a member of the UN Hunger task force from 2001 – 2004.



KEELY BUCHANAN

Sponsored by
Tom Gorman & Leslie Ellis

Keely Buchanan is Director, Event Experience & Internal Communications for Charter Communications. Keely’s cable journey began when she joined

Time Warner Cable in 2001 as Digital Media Specialist. When Charter acquired TWC in 2016, Keely moved into the CTOs organization to focus on Executive Communications and Employee Engagement. In 2019, she joined Product HR to build their Employee Experience Team. Today, she manages a \$1 million budget to execute high-impact Events, Internal Communications, and Employee Engagement Strategy.

Keely has served on the WICT Rocky Mountain Board of Directors since 2008 and has been a member of NAMIC’s Denver Chapter and SCTE’s Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Keely has won numerous industry awards: 2020 Cable Center Shining Star, 2018 WICT Chapter Advisor of the Year, 2016 WICT Chapter Leader of the Year, 2015 Multichannel News Woman in Technology Rising Star, 2012 WICT RM Woman to Watch, 2011 WICT Volunteer of the Year, and 2009 CableFAX’s 30 Women Under 30.

Outside the industry, Keely serves on the Board of a non-profit seeking forever homes for the 100,000 children in US foster care and co-runs a non-profit that helps Colorado parents find best-fit schools.

Keely is an alumna of the University of Denver where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Digital Media Studies, graduating Magna Cum Laude and with Departmental Honors.

SUSAN BURGSTINER

Sponsored by
Trygve Myhren &
McAdory Lipscomb



Susan Burgstiner is President of Marketing On Demand which she founded in September, 1994. Susan’s cable journey began in 1979 with Storer

Communications as Colorado State Sales Manager, supporting corporate marketing during the fast-paced franchise battles of the ’70s and ’80s. Susan moved to Warner Amex Satellite Entertainment Corp. in June of 1982 as Marketing Manager before joining Showtime as Affiliate Sales & Marketing Manager in November of 1983. In 1986, she transitioned to Associated Press where she managed its cable products in 11 western states.

Susan held leadership positions in industry groups including NAMIC’s Rocky Mountain Chapter and WICT’s Rocky Mountain Chapter. She was a founding member of CTAM of the Rockies where she served as President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director. She provided significant assistance to the Cable Center management in its early creation. She is best known for her 30 years of integral support of Adaptive Spirit (aka SkiTAM) as one of its co-founders.

Outside the industry, Susan was Treasurer of “Camp to Belong,” an organization that reunites siblings placed in separate foster homes, bringing them together through summer camp programs. She is currently a long-term Board Director of “No Excuses Unlimited” which supports national and international skiing competition for members of the U.S. Paralympic Ski and Snowboard Team.



JACK BURTON

Sponsored by
Joe Godas & George Hart

Jack Burton is Principal and Co-founder of Broadband Success Partners, a leading broadband consulting firm focused exclusively on technical due

diligence and network evaluation.

Jack began his cable adventures in Staff Engineering roles with Warner Amex “QUBE” in Cincinnati. After a stint with Tribune United Cable, he shifted gears to broadcasting for MTV Networks, where he was involved in many productions including “Spring Break,” “New Year’s Eve” and “Remote Control.”

Jack joined Cablevision Systems as Manager of Fiber Optics in 1988. Promotions followed in 1995 to Director of Network Engineering at Lightpath, Cablevision’s business services arm, and Corporate Director of Systems Engineering in 2001. In this role, Jack evaluated and specified new technologies, including Voice over IP, Gigabit Ethernet, and Fiber-to-the-Home. Jack was a key contributor to Packet Cable specifications which guided vendors’ development of IP-based telephone switching and voice peering.

Jack was Chairman of the CableLabs Packet Cable Certification Board from 2011 to 2017. He has also served on numerous CableLabs committees as well as the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences EMMY Award Committee.

Today, Jack serves as President of the Electchester VHF Club and has contributed to the group’s exercises to practice disaster preparedness. As a private pilot, Jack has contributed his skills and aircraft to introducing aviation to youngsters in the Experimental Aviation Association’s Young Eagles program.

DIANE CHRISTMAN

Sponsored by
Patty Boyers & Pat Thompson



Diane Christman is President & CEO of the Syndeo Institute at the Cable Center, a post she has held since January 2022. She joined The Cable Center

staff in 2006 where she previously served as Chief Program Officer. Diane’s introduction to the cable industry came in 1983 with Columbine Cablevision in Ft. Collins, Colorado as a student Content Development Producer, and in 1987 she joined Denver Channel 58 as a Graduate Intern and Community Volunteer.

During the past 17 years, Diane has developed and implemented many of the organization’s experiential programs, thought leadership initiatives and industry and academic partnerships. Among her many accomplishments that continue to contribute to the growth and success of the Syndeo Institute at the Cable Center include producing The Center’s first Annual Report, working and implementing the Chairman’s campaign with Bill Bresnan and establishing the Cable Hall of Fame as a standalone event.

Diane has been a member and supporter of numerous industry associations and organizations, including SCTE, CTAM, WICT, NAMIC and The Kaitz Foundation. As a former board member of WICT Rocky Mountain, she chaired the chapter’s major annual holiday event for three years. In her role, she helped to produce the “Say Yes to the Prom” event for two years in partnership with Discovery Communications.



JACK DYSTE

Sponsored by
Steve Williams & Sally Kinsman

Jack Dyste's introduction to the cable industry came in 1969 with Central Television & Video in Seattle. His first assignment was maintaining video

recorders for taping programming that was flown routinely to broadcast and cable systems in Alaska. Subsequently, North Star Communications hired Jack to help build, maintain and operate their existing and newly franchised cable systems in Alaska and Washington State. Using these newly honed skills, Jack franchised and built Bainbridge TV Cable which he owned and operated for ten years before selling the system to Northland Communications. During this time, he offered his equipment and expertise for community events like the annual Bainbridge Island 4th of July parades.

In 1986, following the acquisition, Northland hired Jack as a consultant to monitor engineering performance, acquisition due diligence and quality assurance. A year later, he was named Vice President Technical Services and in 2000 he was promoted to Senior Vice President, Technical Services. He was named Chief Technical Officer in 2012, a position he held until retiring in 2019.

Jack's industry credits include contributions to SCTE programs and NCTC's Vendor Research Committee. He has presented at numerous industry panels for SCTE, NCTC and NCTI. Away from cable, Jack is a volunteer Board member for his community home owner's association.

SUDHIR ISPAHANI

Sponsored by
Tony Werner & Bill Warga



Sudhir Ispahani is Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Global Partners, a Silicon Valley Investment Advisory Group with offices in California and Hawaii. Founded by Sudhir in 2007, Alpha Global provides independent and

strategic assessments of digital technologies for banks and venture capital groups. From 1997 to 2006, Sudhir was Chief Technology Officer for Liberty Global Europe, responsible for building Europe's largest Broadband Cable Operator from its origins in 1998 as a startup to its current state. As the CTO, Sudhir was responsible for the technology roadmap that served more than 18 million subscribers in video, telephony and data business lines. He directly or indirectly led 1,000 employees with Liberty Global Europe and its affiliated subsidiaries in 18 countries.

Sudhir was deeply involved with CableLabs (USA and Europe) and was the founding president of Euro CableLabs. He is a frequent speaker at NCTA and SCTE events and was a member of the European Telecom Standards Institute. He is on several boards and advisory boards of startups, and is an LP in several technology funds.

Sudhir is Founder & President of the U.S. based non-profit Masters Peace Foundation, and Elmo's Haven, a non-profit canine hospice that serves elderly and sick dogs in their last days. He is a published author and Podcast host of "Cracking the Code" with Sudhir Ispahani.

CONGRATULATIONS

CABLE TV PIONEERS CLASS OF 2023

ROUZBEH YASSINI

SHERI LANGFORD

Sponsored by
Stan VonFeldt & Tim Cohane



Sheri Langford's 40 years in the cable industry began in 1979 with WGN in Lancaster, California. Her duties ranged from Customer Service, including Cable Installations, to Purchasing and Inventory Control. In 1984, Sheri moved to Colorado to join Monte Rifkin's ATC as a Purchasing Manager. After 15 years with ATC / Time Warner, Sheri moved to the supplier side to work at High-Speed Access Corp. as Director of Affiliate Relations from 1999-2001. She then moved to CommScope as District Sales Manager from 2001-2004. After 30 years in cable, Sheri joined Charter Communications in 2013 where she is currently a Senior Manager of Purchasing.

Sheri's strength is represented by her vast knowledge of products, materials and the evolution of the industry itself. She leads a team of frontline buyers, teaching them how to navigate the nuances of working with both internal and external customers, engineering and manufacturing.

Sheri has been a member of WICT since its inception and participates in many of the Rocky Mountain Regional functions. She has been an active member of NAMIC. Sheri volunteers with a variety of organizations, including the Food Bank of the Rockies, the United Church of Christ, and National Get Outdoors Day. She represented Charter at the Matthew Shephard Foundation's annual fund-raising event and marched at the Foundation's World Pride event in New York City.



AMY M. LYNCH

Sponsored by
Vibha Rustagi & Steve Havey

Amy M. Lynch is President, Northeast Division for Comcast, a position she has held since January of this year. As Northeast Division President, Amy

is responsible for all aspects of the business related to 11 million customers across 14 northeastern states from Maine through Virginia and the District of Columbia, with a team of approximately 12,000 employees.

Most recently, Amy was Senior Vice President of Customer Experience and Customer Operations for Comcast's West Division where she oversaw all aspects of the customer experience for 11 million residential and business customers. Prior to this assignment, Amy held Senior Vice President and Vice President positions in the Mountain West Region, Washington Region, and in the role of Engineering and Operations.

Amy has been named to Cablefax Magazine's Top 100 Regional Power Players and one of San Francisco Business Time's Most Influential Women. She is an active leader in Women in Technology International and The WICT Network. She takes great pride in developing leaders and giving back to the community. She is active in her church community and has served on numerous Boards including Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, the Colorado Women's Foundation, and the Washington Roundtable Board of Directors.

JAMES MANCHESTER

Sponsored by
Mike Hayashi & Bob Stanzione



James Manchester is Chief Reliability Officer for Comcast. At Comcast, he is known for driving proactive operations through the concept of Reliability Engineering. He joined Comcast in 2017 from Time Warner, where he had

been Senior Vice President, Network Operations & Engineering. For more than a decade, James led the teams that launched cable's first IP video service across multiple platforms. James also held leadership positions in TWC's New York City and Albany Regions.

Earlier in his career, James worked at Tellium, Bell Labs and Bellcore in multiple positions, ultimately leading him to the cable and broadband industry. At Bell Labs, he led the development of the industry's first VOIP platform, deploying it in Time Warner's Portland, Maine Division in 1998. James has been actively involved with SCTE and CableLabs for many years, both as an active participant and as a mentor to Comcast and Time Warner rising stars.

As a fifth generation Army veteran who served in the first Gulf War, James helped establish Time Warner's Veteran's Network. He is an avid lacrosse fan and has spent many years as a player, coach, and administrator in various programs. He is also Treasurer for his local synagogue, the Germantown Jewish Center in Pennsylvania.



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CONGRATULATING
The Class of
2023
CABLE TV
PIONEERS



Discover a comprehensive range of top-quality products to fuel your network infrastructure. From fiber optics to wireless gear, Power & Tel has what it takes to elevate your connectivity game.

ARTURO MARQUEZ

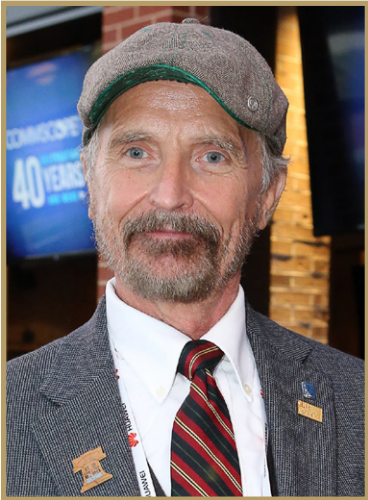
Sponsored by
Bridget Baker & Lou Borrelli



Arturo Marquez is Fuse Media's Senior Vice President, Affiliate Sales & Distribution. He joined Fuse in 2017 from PAC 12 Networks where he was Senior VP of Distribution & Affiliate Marketing. Art entered the cable industry in 1990 with Cencom in Los Angeles as Director of Government Affairs, having previously served four years on the City of Commerce City Council. After Cencom, Art joined NBC Cable Networks, where he spent four years as Regional Director, Affiliate Relations for the Central Region and Southern California. He was Director of National Accounts for Univision / Galavisión from 1997 – 1999, then returned to NBC Cable Networks as Vice President. He went on to positions with NFL and MLB Networks.

Art has been active in many industry associations including the Southern California Cable Association, the California Cable Television Association and the Los Angeles Marketing Co-op. Working with other network representatives, he was instrumental in introducing Cable in the Classroom to Southern California. Art has been a long-time supporter of non-profit organizations focused on public benefit and is a guest lecturer at Los Angeles and New York City area colleges.

After relocating to New York City, Art jumped into several community efforts, including spending his Saturday mornings at the St. Joseph's soup kitchen and mentoring a young adults' group at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the West Village.



DANIEL MCKAY

Sponsored by
Andy Healey & Tim Vaas

Daniel McKay is a veteran executive with more than 30 years as a Director, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer with multiple cable and

broadband ventures. Dan spent his early career with Cablevision Systems in New York as Chief Engineer, then moved to Continental Cablevision as District Engineer in the Southeastern District. In 1989, he joined Coaxial Communications in Columbus, Ohio as Vice President, Technical Operations and Engineering, then moved to Charter Communications in St. Louis as VP Engineering National Region.

Dan was Owner/Operator of St. Charles & Maricopa Broadband from February of 2003 until October of 2008 before joining Insight Communications' corporate base in Louisville, Kentucky. He held corporate consulting positions with Comcast and Time Warner from January of 2012 to 2020.

Dan was instrumental in the startup of the Hudson Valley, NY Chapter of SCTE and the initial startup of CableLabs in Boston. He was inducted into the SCTE-ISBE Hall of Fame in 2015. He is member of the Loyal Order of the 704 and the SCTE Circle of Eagles.

Away from the industry, Dan has held head coaching positions with the Pickerington Youth Athletic Association in Ohio. He is a charter member of the Elks in Islip, New York, and a member of American Legion Post 283 in Pickerington.

THOMAS MONAGHAN

Sponsored by
Tim Cooke & Tom Adams



Thomas Monaghan is Executive Vice President, Field Operations for Charter Communications. In this role, he has responsibility for all 11 Charter Regions,

a \$13 billion budget and 33,000 employees. Tom is also responsible for the company's \$5 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund expansion, business planning, standards & compliance and human resources for Field Operations.

Tom joined Charter from Cablevision Systems in January of 2014, where he had been Senior Vice President, Operations for more than a decade. While leading Cablevision's field operations, Tom was responsible for a \$125 million budget, more than 500 employees and contractors serving 350,000 customers in New York City.

A member of the Society of Telecommunications Engineers, Tom served as Chairman of the 2020 SCTE EXPO. He currently serves on the SCTE Finance Committee. Tom also served as Co-Committee Chair for a number of SCTE's technology events, specifically focused on 5G, 10G and the future direction of CATV Technologies.

Away from his industry responsibilities, Tom is dedicated to the youth of his hometown, both in sports and as a Board advisor to his high school alma mater. He coached high school football from 1987 through 2014 in Long Island, New York and took his teams to 14 championships.



BALAN NAIR

Sponsored by
Mike Fries & Chris Bowick

Balan Nair serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Latin America, an international provider of fixed, mobile and undersea telecommunications services serving the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

Prior to leading Liberty Latin America, Balan was a key executive at Liberty Global from 2007 to 2017 where he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. He assisted in technology, M&A and strategic matters for Liberty Global.

Before joining Liberty Global, Balan was Executive Vice President & Chief Technology Officer at AOL LLC. Prior to his role at AOL, he spent more than 12 years with Qwest Communications International as Chief Information Officer and Chief Technology Officer

Balan was elected into the Cable Hall of Fame in 2018 and regularly speaks at industry events. Balan serves on the board of Adtran Inc., Charter Communications, 3netsIO and Vantage Data Centers. He loves his family, has great friends and works with amazing colleagues. Life is good.

KATHY PAYNE

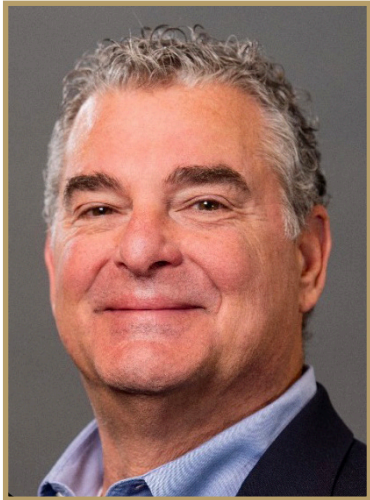
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Char Beales & Ann Carlsen



Kathy Payne began her professional career as an attorney with Dow Lohnes & Albertson where her work included numerous matters for Cox Communications. She was hired by Cox in 1993 as the second in-house counsel. She was promoted to Assistant General Counsel and was instrumental in the Cox legal team growing to more than two dozen attorneys working on content licensing, retransmission consent, regulatory compliance and litigation. Kathy moved to the content acquisition team in 2001 where she rose to Vice President and was the lead negotiator on hundreds of media affiliation agreements with top cable networks.

Kathy moved to Suddenlink Communications in March 2014 as Senior Vice President to lead the company's negotiations with cable networks and broadcasters in a year of an unprecedented number of contract renewals and disputes. She left Suddenlink shortly after the company was acquired by Altice and moved to Seattle to lead the Content Acquisition and Management team for Prime Video Channels.

Kathy served on WICT's National Board from 2007 to 2013, and served as Board Chairman from 2010 to 2012. She has served on the Board of Visitors for Duke Law School for the past four years and currently co-chairs the Board's Resource & Development Committee. Kathy was co-founder of the Atlanta chapter of Cable Positive and was named a Multichannel News "Wonder Woman" in 2009.



ERIC PERBOHNER

Sponsored by
Mark Manning & Gordy Halverson

Eric Perbohner was a Sales & Marketing Specialist with XG Photonics until March of 2022. His entry into cable was with Anixter Communications in 1980.

As Anixter became Antec, and later Arris, Eric moved up the ranks to District Sales Manager, then to National Accounts Manager and ultimately Western Regional Vice President. In the latter role, he doubled regional revenues and grew relationships with the Western-based MSOs.

In 1989, Eric moved to the international scene as Vice President for Arris Europe, the company's first European venture. After three years developing these markets, he moved back to the States to become Central Region Vice President based in Chicago. In 2000, Eric followed his entrepreneurial instincts to a new challenge as Director Cable Markets for General Bandwidth. He later spent two years with Wave 7 Optics as Director of Cable TV Sales before moving to Alcatel Lucent as Director of Sales. He also had subsequent roles with Technetics and XG Photonics in Business Development.

Eric had a long association with SCTE dating back to his early years on the West Coast, and then while in Chicago, London and South America. His Arris Western team joined with SCTE and Raychem to hold hands on field training for industry technicians.

Sadly, we lost Eric to pancreatic cancer in April of 2022.

PRAGASH PILLAI

Sponsored by
Bob Greiner & Tom Jokerst



Pragash Pillai is Chief Technology & Information Officer for Altice USA, parent company of Optimum, overseeing technology, operations, cybersecurity,

engineering, and product development with a focus on expanding fiber broadband solutions. Previously, he also led Operations and Customer Care at the company. His entry into the cable industry came in 1999 with Charter Communications. In 2006, Pragash joined Bresnan Communications as Senior VP, Engineering & Technology, then moved to Cablevision when Bresnan was acquired by the company.

Pragash is an innovative leader and problem solver. He turns vision into action to improve technical solutions and deliver the best customer experience. He has co-authored several industry articles on technology and operations, and was awarded patents for proactive network performance and power outage detection. Notably, Pragash led the charge to deploy FTTH networks, utilizing XGS-PON technology, which has enabled Optimum to deliver 8 Gbps symmetrical fiber service to their broadband customers reaching over 2.5 million FTTH homes.

Pragash has been an active Executive Board Member and Treasurer for NAMIC, helping to advance the mission to educate and empower multi-ethnic diversity in the cable industry. He is also a member of the DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean's Advisory Board at Hofstra University. Pragash was elected to the Cable Center Board in 2022. He enjoys volunteering for his son's school programs and has volunteered as a youth soccer coach.



MICHAEL POWELL

Sponsored by
Dick Sjoberg & Sandy Howe

Michael Powell is President & CEO of The Internet & Television Association, a position he has held since April, 2011. Michael is the primary voice for the

industry on all legislative and regulatory issues. He is the former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission having been initially nominated by President Bill Clinton and sworn in on November 3, 1997. He served for eight years during which time he was designated Chairman by George W. Bush in January of 2011.

During his time as FCC Chairman, Michael oversaw the rapid transformation of communications markets into the Digital Age. During his tenure, the Internet came into widespread commercial use, as did smart phones, Wi-Fi networks and satellite radio. Michael's prior public service includes Chief of Staff of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Defense. In the private sector, he served on the Cisco and AOL Boards of Directors.

Michael has been a dynamic and compassionate leader throughout his career. He currently serves, and has served, on several non-profit boards, including in a host of leadership roles. He is now Chairman of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of America's Promise Alliance and recently served as Chair of the William and Mary Foundation Board of Trustees.

TOM RUTLEDGE

Sponsored by
Bob Miron & Ed Breen



A 50-year Cable Veteran, Tom Rutledge is the Executive Chairman of Charter Communications. He has led the Company since joining as CEO in 2012.

Under his leadership, Charter merged with and integrated Time Warner Cable, Bright House Networks and Optimum West, tripling the size of the company. He oversaw Charter's launch of an all-digital cable TV and streaming platform, gigabit broadband, Spectrum Mobile, and the company's more than \$5 billion rural construction initiative.

Prior to joining Charter, Tom served as COO of Cablevision. There he led the first HD VOD offering, the first cable footprint-wide rollout of VoIP phone service, the first Wi-Fi mesh wireless cable network deployment, and greenlit the iconic television series "Mad Men," "Breaking Bad" and "The Walking Dead."

Tom started in the industry as a lineman for Eastern Telecom in 1972. He joined ATC in 1977 as a manager trainee and served in a series of progressively larger leadership roles, eventually becoming President of Time Warner Cable in 2001.

Tom served as Chairman of CableLabs and the NCTA, and currently serves on the boards of CableLabs, C-SPAN, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. He received the NCTA Vanguard Award for Distinguished Leadership, CTAM's Grand Tam Award, and is a member of the Cable Hall of Fame and the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame.



SHANNON SAVIERS

Sponsored by
Cynthia Carpenter & Duane Dick

Shannon Saviers is President of GrowthLinx Inc. Advisors, providing advisory services to corporate boards on governance, growth, and strategy.

She entered the cable industry with MediaOne in 1995 when she took a short-term gig in Elmira, NY to pilot internet services that were delivered over cable infrastructure. She later became Regional Vice President at Road Runner launching internet services in a twelve-state region with seven regional data centers and a field staff of more than 100. Since 2002, Shannon has provided strategic consulting to broadband industry operators and vendors, focusing on innovative offerings like 5G, fiber, AI, and mobile. During her 12-year tenure with Sand Cherry Associates, Shannon played a crucial role in industry M&A and large-scale innovation projects, including digital and technical transformations.

In 2022, Shannon received the prestigious “Woman of the Year” award from WICT’s Rocky Mountain chapter, recognizing her significant influence on the organization and the broader industry. Shannon has been an active member and leader in the WICT Network for nearly 25 years and founded the acclaimed WICT Mentoring Program, impacting over 1,000 industry professionals since its establishment in 2003. Beyond her industry contributions, Shannon has served on the boards of Girls Athletic Leadership School, Girls Inc. acts as a Business Mentor for the organization “Energize Colorado” and is a Syndeo Institute Cable Ambassador.

STACEY SLAUGHTER

Sponsored by
Jana Henthorn & Ellen Schned



Stacey Slaughter is Chief Executive Officer of NCTI, a position she has held since December of 2013. Prior to becoming CEO, Stacey was NCTI’s Chief Financial Officer. She got her start in the cable industry in 1996 with Jones International, initially as a staff accountant, then moving up to Financial Accounting Director and to Controller in 2004. In 2012, Glenn Jones promoted Stacey to the Jones “C-Suite” as Chief Financial Officer and to CEO in late 2013. Upon Glenn Jones’ passing in 2015, Stacey negotiated a purchase of the NCTI subsidiary and its assets from Jones International.

Stacey is an active supporter of The WICT Network, especially her home base Rocky Mountain Chapter. As an assistant board member, Stacey is also active with the Rocky Mountain chapter of SCTE. Stacey has mentored many young women in the industry. A supporter of Adaptive Spirit, she most recently joined the event committee. Through NCTI, Stacey is a generous sponsor of organizations in the industry.

Stacey has been a frequent panelist and moderator for Strong Women Alliance events, a non-profit designed to empower. She has also been an invited speaker for WICT Pacific Northwest and WICT Rocky Mountain, ACA Connects, and Carribean Cable Telecommunications Association.

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 Cable TV Pioneers Honorees



James Manchester



Jennifer Smardo



Amy Lynch



Jeff Smith



Rob Howald



JENNIFER SMARDO

Sponsored by

Larry Hanson & Richard Rexroat

Jennifer Smardo serves as Vice President of the Planning Design and Construction team at Comcast Corporation. In this role, Ms. Smardo

is responsible for the oversight of design, implementation and operations supporting the construction of Comcast Fiber and Coax networks. The team collaborates cross-functionally within HQ and divisional construction and engineering teams to provide strategic guidance, operations support, and business intelligence.

Jennifer began her career as a receptionist in the Central Division office of TCI and has held progressive positions with responsibilities that encompassed Engineering, Tech Ops, Financial and Project Management disciplines which have led to advancement into her current role.

Jennifer earned a BA in Psychology, a BS in Communications and a MS in Organizational Leadership from Regis University.

Jennifer is a member of The WICT Network and the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers and serves on the SCTE Board Treasurer. She is a graduate of various industry leadership programs including the WICT Rocky Mountain Leadership Institute Program, WICT Rising Leaders Program, Betsy Magness Leadership Institute, the Comcast Women's Executive Leadership Program, and the SCTE-Tuck Executive Leadership Program.

Passionate about animal welfare, she is involved in many related charities throughout the nation. In 2018, Jennifer established her own non-profit "Smardo Foundation", which continues to focus on providing grants to animal welfare non-profits.

JEFF SMITH

Sponsored by

Mark Manning & Larry Stiffelman



Jeff Smith is Senior Vice President & Senior Deputy General Counsel, Product Technology & Operations, for Comcast Cable. Jeff joined Comcast in

April of 1992 as lead attorney for Comcast Cellular, the company's first foray into cellular communications. Jeff has worn many hats over a three-decade career with Comcast. As his career at Comcast continued, his responsibilities included coordinating and executing the transfers of thousands of cable franchise agreements as Comcast expanded through acquisitions of Adelphia, MediaOne, TCI, AT&T Broadband and others. Overlapping this period, Jeff was General Counsel for Broadnet, a European subsidiary of Comcast, investing in wireless broadband in ten European countries.

In his current role, Jeff's responsibilities include managing the legal support for the development, pricing and packaging of all company products, technology development, marketing/advertising, sales, and procurement operations. Jeff was also one of the negotiators with Verizon leading to the company's highly successful launch of Xfinity Mobile.

Jeff is on the Board of Advisors of the Kline School of Law at Drexel University and previously served on the Board of the Brand Activation Program, a national non-profit trade association focused on marketing disciplines. He also served on an American Bar Association working committee that made recommendations for the National Advertising Division's operations.



RANDALL WELLS

Sponsored by
Ron Rizzuto & Steve Weed

Randy Wells has been a leading financial advisor to mid- to large-sized cable/broadband and telecom companies on mergers & acquisitions and corporate finance transactions. Over his career, he has advised clients on a wide range of investments involving more than 200 transactions with an aggregate value in excess of \$30 billion.

Randy began his cable journey in 1988 as a Financial Analyst with Daniels & Associates, the nation's most active advisor to cable and telecom companies, after graduating from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. He was named a Vice President at Daniels in January 1991, and Senior Vice President and Partner in January 2000. Randy was named Managing Director of RBC Capital Markets' Communications, Media & Entertainment Group when RBC acquired Daniels & Associates in January of 2007.

As a board member of the Daniels Fund, Randy helps direct and oversee the Fund's grants, scholarship, and ethics programs. He has been a featured guest speaker in various finance classes and industry panels, and has served as a mentor to high school and graduate students.

Randy and his family have been actively involved with Denver area non-profits for more than 30 years, and are passionate advocates and financial supporters of the Children's Diabetes Foundation and Adam's Camp.



TEN FOR TECH
2023 TECH PIONEERS



LISA DENNEY
BROADCOM

Lisa Denney's cable career began in the early 1990s with BNR as she helped to architect what would later become Arris' Cornerstone Voice product. She worked in the Digital Video Group at Scientific-Atlanta from October 1994 to February 1996. She moved to Arris in February of 1996 as Manager of Design Services, then to Broadcom in September of 1996. She is now a Technical Director and has led cable modem engineering efforts since joining the company. Lisa is a named inventor of more than 30 patents in the areas of cable modems and modem termination systems and an expert in the DOCSIS specifications and products.

Lisa has been involved in numerous notable cable modem products, leading the system engineering and architecture on an advanced CMTS. She led the MAC architecture for the DOCSIS 2.0, 3.0 and 3.1 compliant modems. Lisa continues to provide guidance and leadership to Broadcom's next generation modem product development efforts. Lisa has been deeply involved in standards development for the industry at large throughout the development of DOCSIS standards at CableLabs and has provided leadership to teams of competitors and colleagues on multiple DOCSIS specifications. Lisa was named a Broadcom Fellow in 2006, the highest technical honor bestowed by the company.

A tireless church volunteer, Lisa is president of her congregation and leads outreach programs and community growth endeavors.

Sponsored by Cathleen Quigley & Henry Samueli



MIKE EMMENDORFER
CALIX, INC.

Mike's cable career began in 1999 as Charter's first corporate data network and voice engineer. He created Charter's first data network and application engineering & architecture organizations. His organization designed, tested, and launched high-speed Internet, Telephone, and Business Services across 40 states. In 2002, Charter became the first MSO to launch primary line telephone service utilizing a full IP network. Charter was the first to launch VPN services over both DOCSIS and optical ethernet. He oversaw the introduction of PON technology in 2002. Charter was the first to merge internet, voice, and all digital video onto a unified IP infrastructure. By 2005, Mike received our industry's highest honor for data networking, the SCTE's IP Innovator Award.

In 2006, he joined Arris and led the architecture and first deployments of DOCSIS and PON systems. His patents and industry publications became foundational in CableLabs DPoE and DOCSIS 3.1/4.0 standards. In 2019, CommScope acquired Arris and he continued serving as VP Systems Engineering. In 2022, Mike joined Calix as VP of Technology Solutions to support the adoption of PON, Wi-Fi, cloud software, and managed services.

He received industry appointments to serve as Standards Chair at both CableLabs and the IEEE. He holds over ten patents.

Mike has been a supporter of the Girl Scouts by leading field trips and activities with his daughters. He is involved with the Saint Louis Food Bank.

Sponsored by Doug Jones & Victor Hou



STEVEN HARRIS

SCTE

Steven Harris is SCTE's Vice President for Global Market Development, one of the positions he has held since January of 2010. Prior to joining SCTE, Steve was a technical trainer and content developer with Comcast where he developed and taught 15 new courses for the company, providing measurable return on investment. For his work with Comcast University and the Comcast Jeopardy program, he was recognized by SCTE as their inaugural L&D professional of the year. He later joined the SCTE New Jersey board and rose to the rank of Chapter Vice President.

After leaving Comcast in 2010 to join SCTE full-time, Steve was tasked with leading the new Learning & Development / L&D initiatives. His first project in this new role was a training partnership between SCTE, Comcast and CableLabs. For his work in L&D he was named SCTE's first Executive Director. Steve now works with more than 100 MSOs and much of the vendor community. Along with many of the industry's top experts, Steve is a regular contributor to Broadband Library, CableFax, and Fiber Systems, among others. He has passionately engaged as a speaker at numerous trade events such as ANGA COM, WICT and Fiber Connect.

Steve's spare time initiatives include advocating for veterans' affairs, spearheading colon cancer fundraisers and volunteering as a softball coach for his hometown team.

Sponsored by Andy Parrott & Charles Hembree



ROBERT HOWALD

COMCAST

Dr. Robert Howald is a Comcast Fellow in the Technology, Product, and Experience organization at Comcast, joining the company in 2013. He previously held leadership, strategy and technology positions at Arris, Motorola Broadband and General Instrument. Until joining General Instrument in 1995, Rob was Principal Engineer with Lockheed Martin Astro Space.

Rob is Comcast's leading Access Architecture and Technology voice, frequently representing the company at conference events, keynotes, and technical panels, and is the author of more than 150 technical publications. He was a key contributor to the DOCSIS 4.0 and DOCSIS 3.1 specifications, and led the development team that debuted the first end-to-end 10G FDX system in 2022. He has been granted 14 patents and was inducted into the Communications Engineering & Design Magazine Hall of Fame in 2012. Rob was also the Region 11 representative to the SCTE Board in 2015 and 2016.

Outside of the industry, Rob has been an Adjunct professor at Villanova University, coached, umpired, refereed, and directed youth sports in the community, including Little League Baseball, youth roller hockey, and girls' soccer. Rob was a recipient of Lifepath's Outstanding Family Award in 2015, an organization that ensures individuals with intellectual disabilities live meaningful lives.

Sponsored by Jay Rolls & Tom Kolze



JACK MORAN
FUTUREWEI TECHNOLOGIES

Until retiring in 2018, Jack Moran worked in RF Engineering and related fields for more than 40 years, the last two decades in the cable industry. Prior to his entry into cable in the mid-1990s, Jack worked in telephony and voice bandwidth data transmission, satellite and microwave link engineering and RF radio data transmission. The positions of responsibility Jack held during his cable career included Fellow of the Technical Staff with Motorola, Principal Architect at CableLabs, Distinguished Cable Access Expert at Futurewei Technologies and Contractor Expert at Comcast.

Jack contributed to the development of every version of DOCSIS specifications, from DOCSIS 1.0 to the full duplex technology that became part of the DOCSIS 4.0 specifications. He did substantial work on the development of cable network RF upstream data transmission measurement techniques as well data transmission measurement techniques over optical fiber links. Jack holds 32 patents, 24 of which are cable industry-specific.

Outside of the industry, Jack has held several local and community leadership positions, including Assistant Scoutmaster for a Boy Scout Troop in Blackstone, Massachusetts. He was a Cantor in St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Millville, Massachusetts for nearly 29 years and served as Finance Committee Chairman for the Town of Millville from 1988 – 1993.

Sponsored by Ron Hranac & Tom Staniec



NIKI PANTELIAS
BROADCOM

Niki Pantelias has been an engineer at Broadcom since March of 2000, reaching the level of Distinguished Engineer. She had previously been a Design Engineer with Elastic Networks, a division of Nortel. Prior to her entry into the communications space, Niki was a design engineer with Healthdyne Technologies.

A creative and innovative leader at Broadcom, Niki has made her mark on CableLabs standards for every DOCSIS and Distributed Access specification since DOCSIS 2.0. Her work started long before formal standardization began, as she discussed innovative concepts with other industry leaders, helped to identify benefits and tradeoffs, and blended the best ideas together. Niki contributed greatly to the Broadband community by leading standards group discussions, performing detailed analyses, and creating tutorials on new specifications for CableLabs presentations. Her ability to synthesize unique solutions across multiple technology areas is one of her strongest attributes. Niki has presented papers at conferences sponsored by SCTE, NCTA, and ICTC. She holds more than 50 patents in the cable space, leading to many new ideas and inventions within DOCSIS and Distributed Access standards and products.

Niki spends much of her spare time volunteering with different organizations, including the Wylde Center, an Atlanta-based non-profit leading environmental stewardship and education. She has also been an active volunteer with voter assistance programs, spending many hours over several election cycles.

Sponsored by Tom Cloonan & John Ulm



JASON SCHNITZER

APPLIED BROADBAND

Jason Schnitzer is Founder & CEO of Applied Broadband, a Research and Development company formed to create network control platforms for the world's leading internet service providers. Joining the broadband industry as a junior engineer with Shaw Communications in 1995, Jason was a pioneering contributor to the company's initial broadband deployments. While there, he was responsible for designing HFC and IP networks to deploy digital services and installed Canada's first cable modem in a subscriber's home.

Following his early work deploying broadband, Jason became co-founder and CTO of Stargus, a network management and optimization software company. Throughout his 28 years in the cable industry, Jason has led many technology standards and initiatives in broadband networking, including systems for automating emerging fixed network architectures and wireless delivery platforms.

Jason previously served on the board of Hillside School, to support young learners with Dyslexia. He is currently chairman of the Off the Ropes Foundation, a non-profit boxing club providing physical and social development for both competitive youth and individuals managing Parkinson's disease.

Sponsored by Robert Cruickshank & Richard Woundy



PAWEL SOWINSKI

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

Pawel Sowinski's adventure with the cable industry began in 1998 when he joined a start-up company, Broadband Access Systems, which delivered the industry's first carrier class CMTS. As a key member of the architecture group, Pawel was responsible for specifying the high-level industry service requirements and developing the system architecture of this next generation triple-play voice, video and data product. He was also responsible for designing the architecture of the major CMTS subsystems. His duties included interfacing with industry standard/certification bodies including CableLabs', Euro CableLabs' and Technical Advisory Boards.

In 2005, Pawel joined Cisco Systems' Cable Business Unit where he was a key technical contributor, rising through several positions to become a Principal Engineer in 2014. His contributions at Cisco included his leadership in the development of specifications for multiple key technology components, including M-CMTS, DOCSIS 3.0 MAC subsystems. Pawel represented Cisco in multiple industry working groups including Comcast NGNA, CableLabs DOCSIS 3.1 and Remote PHY committees. Pawel now serves as Principal Engineer III at Charter Communications, where he provides technical leadership in the company's network transformation toward Distributed Access Architecture and DOCSIS 4.0.

Pawel is an active supporter of the American Red Cross, a licensed soccer referee and a member of several support organizations, including a local NPR affiliate and the American Repertory Theater.

Sponsored by Gerald White & Christopher Grobicki



FERNANDO VILLARRUEL

CIENA CORPORATION

Fernando Villarruel is Chief Architect at Ciena Corporation, where he pairs cutting-edge technology with industry initiatives in access, metro and automation. His current focus is advances in PON and coherent optics for access. He is the company's cable industry advocate and technology evangelist. Focused on cable since 2000, Fernando has held previous engineering roles at Cisco and Scientific-Atlanta.

His contributions include solutions to single fiber, multi-wavelength analog networks that evade non-linear fiber impairments, allowing analog networks to last long enough for a smooth transition to DAA. He led the design and implementation of the broadcast video overlay for FIOS, to date the largest fiber to the home deployment in the North America. He realized early on how remote PHY solutions would change the HFC network connectivity, publishing the first description of networking protocols necessary for a functioning converged interconnect network. Fernando was an early predictor for the use of low-cost coherent optical technology in access networks, along with outside plant networking aggregators, work he helped define at CableLabs.

Fernando is an active contributor to SCTE journals and presentations, standards working groups at CableLabs and a perennial moderator and presenter at SCTE Cable Tec-Expo.

In his personal time, Fernando is devoted to his family, serves in children's ministries at his church, has held board positions at non-profits, and enjoys coaching soccer.

Sponsored by John Chapman & Zenita Henderson



TOM WILLIAMS

CABLELABS

Tom Williams is the president of Holtzman Inc. He is an electrical engineer and inventor living in Longmont, Colorado. He has more than 80 US patents and more pending. He received his BSEE from Christian Brothers University, his MSEE from the University of Illinois, and his MBA from Eastern Illinois University. In the past 55 years Tom has been working in the communications industry as a physical-layer (PHY) radio design engineer with a background in digital signal processing (DSP). Much of his work has been in cable R&D working for Scientific Atlanta in the 1980s and CableLabs in the '90s and again 2011-2023, when he retired. He has numerous publications, many with a focus on cable technology. He and co-inventor Rich Prodan invented OFDMA modulation in the '90s. Between stints at CableLabs, Tom formed Holtzman Inc. as an innovation company developing intellectual property (IP) and cable-related test and measurement gear.

In recent years he became convinced in the reality of man-made climate change and quit a fun and challenging job with a great company (CableLabs) with a talented management team to pursue environmental solutions. He believes that having energy efficiency is as important as making more clean energy. He is now working on high efficiency transportation systems incorporating rails and renewable energy.

Sponsored by Dick Green & Rich Prodan



CONGRATULATIONS CABLE TV PIONEER 2023 HONOREES

Your influence
and expertise fuel
our success.



Keely Buchanan



Sheri Langford

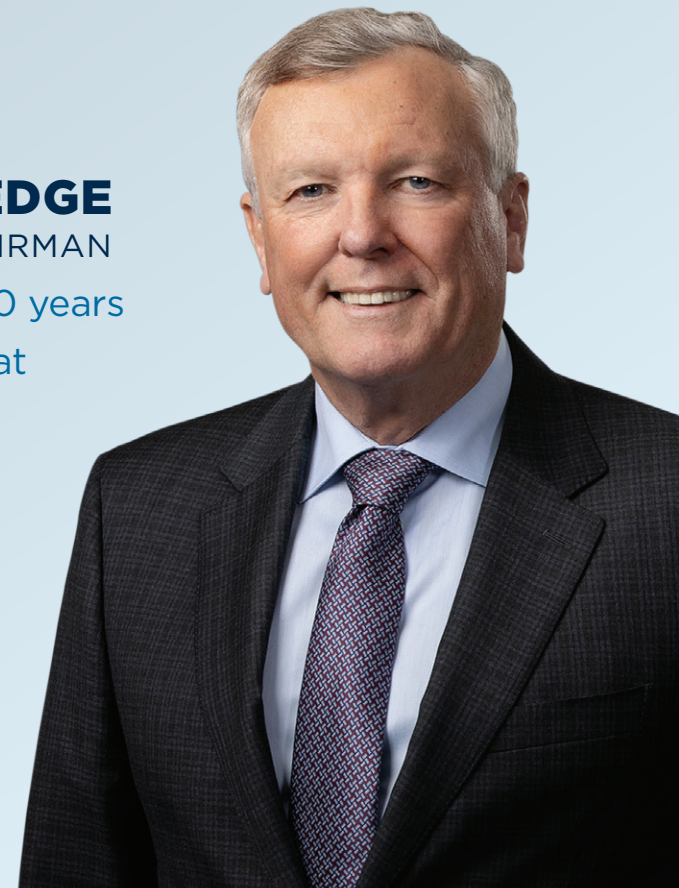


Pawel Sowinski

TOM RUTLEDGE

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Thank you for 50 years
of leadership that
transformed
an industry.



TOM MONAGHAN

EVP, FIELD OPERATIONS

Your guidance is helping
deliver the future of
connectivity.



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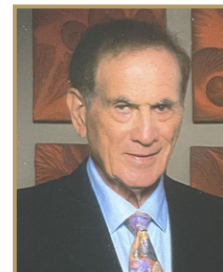
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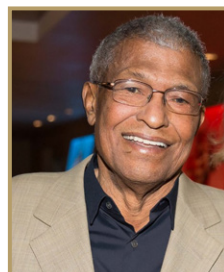
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Joel P. Smith	Joseph W. Taylor Sr.	David O. Wicks
Wally Snedecker	Frank P. Thompson	Carl M. Williams
E. Stratford Smith, Esq.	Richard Thomson	Franklin T. Williams
William B. Smullin	Chris W. Thorniley	David L. Willis
Abe H. Sonneschein	Robert L. Toner	Ron Wolfe
George "Tom" Soulsby	Sid Topol	Wendell D. Woody
J. C. Sparkman	Robert J. Trently	Bark Lee Yee
Don Spencer	Thomas B. Troehler	Stella C. Yee
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CABLE TELEVISION PIONEERS

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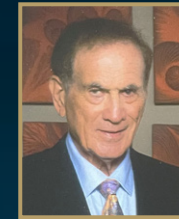
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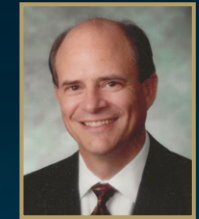
John P. Cole
1973



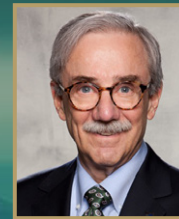
Fred Vierra
2004



Don Edelman
1998



Tom Puckett
2003



Michael L. Pandzik
1992



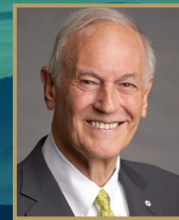
John Brockman
1993



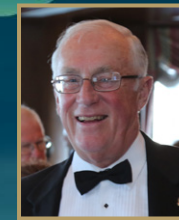
Jim Hall Sr.
1985



Harold Null Sr.
1986



Phil Lind
1999



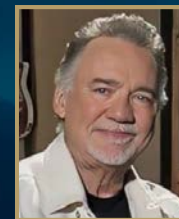
Paul Schonewolf
1990



Austin Coryell
1992



Robert Grassi
2012



Stan Hitchcock
2012



Sally Kinsman
1996



Les P. Hilliard
1986



Rick Bechtel
2008

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