Name of Participant: The Media Consortium, a project of the Foundation for National Progress

Participant ID: 66012812 SRF# 22643

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**Please provide details of how you used the funds received from the GTLF.**

The immediate purpose of this grant was to enable a more diverse group of attendees and speakers to participate in our annual conference. The mid-term goal was to model the media landscape we seek by ensuring that more than 50% of the speakers at our conference were speakers of color, and that a significant percent of our attendees were people of color. The long-term goal was to invite speakers and attendees who, along with being people of color, are individuals who use a race equity lens in their work.

**Please describe the progress you made in achieving the purposes for which the funds were provided and any lessons learned.**

As a result of this grant, we were able to bring 8 speakers and 6 attendees to the conference who would not otherwise have been able to attend. The speakers were:

* Elon James White, This Week in Blackness, who called out progressives for not doing a good enough job in their reporting on Black Lives Matter.
* Kevin McNeir, Washington Informer, and Rong Xiaoqing, Sing Tao Daily, who talked about election coverage in African American and Chinese communities
* Michelle Chen, freelancer, and Nick Quah, Hot Pod, who talked about reaching out to communities of color via podcasting
* Priya Kumar, New America, who discussed broadband access for people of color
* Sabine Quetant, Blavity and Sharis Delgadillo, Latino Rebels, who talked about using social media to tell stories by and about Blacks and Latinos.

We achieved our diversity goal for speakers; over 60% of the speakers at our conference were people of color. Kim Spencer, the (white) founder of LINKTV, said:

*“At one point after lunch on Thursday I looked around the room and almost everyone in my field of vision was either female or person of color - an amazing diversity. “*

Finally, the individuals we brought in use a race equity lens in their work. Many of them founded outlets aimed to tell stories by and about people of color, such as TWIB, Blavity, and Latino Rebels. They gave our national outlets great ideas about how to incorporate a race equity lens into their work. One anonymous survey-taker wrote:

*“ [I took away] A race equity plan, tools for gauging impact and ideas for fundraising. I also met a terrific group of folks who will be great resources as we move forward as an organization.”*

We thank the Ford Foundation for providing this travel grant, a little seed that we know will grow into a blossing race equity practice for our members.