The Media Consortium’s IRE Panel Proposals 2017

1. **Black Lives Tracked: How Police Surveil Communities of Color**

This session will look at the tools your local police may well be using to surveil your community--especially people of color in your community: drones loaded with facial recognition software, stingrays that intercept cell phone calls, predictive policing based on algorithms, and social media spying. Find out how these tools work, how to identify when they are used, and how the rhetoric of public safety promotes the continued use of these tools on communities of color.

Potential Speakers:

Steven Renderos, Center for Media Justice

Brandi Collins, Color of Change

Lauren Williams, (reporter) Think Progress lwilliams@thinkprogress.org

2**. Internet Deserts in Ex-Urban America: Who is Impacted, Why it will Get Worse**

Almost 20% of the US population has no access to fixed broadband internet and those numbers may get worse rather than better. The current FCC plans to cut federal programs designed to supply this access, such as lifeline (low-cost internet for the poor and elderly) and erate (internet for schools and libraries). Changes to rules on municipal broadband may hamstring efforts to bring low-cost internet to rural communities. Find out how these changes may impact your region.

Potential Speakers:

Christopher Mitchell, ISLR

Milan Eaton, State eRate Coordinator, Arizona Department of Education

3. **How FCC Policy Could Change Journalism**

Federal media policy is changing in a way that will direct impact journalism and journalists. Congressional action now allows Internet Service Providers to sell anyone’s browsing history (a tool that could be used by investigative reporters but also used against them). New Net Neutrality policy may mean that users can view cable news for free but will have to pay extra to look at their local news site.

Potential Speakers:

Tom Wheeler, Mignon Clyburn or Gigi Sohn (will try to get one of these

In conversation with reporter Jacob Kastrenakes (the Verge).

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