

**Remarks by Larry Irving  
Presenting The Media Institute's  
2015 American Horizon Award  
To Meredith Attwell Baker  
October 21, 2015**

One of the advantages of living and working in Washington is that you get to meet and know smart, energetic, inspired, and inspiring young people. What's even better is that you get to watch those young people realize their potential.

A few years ago, when she still was early in her career, I met Meredith Attwell Baker and it was clear that she was going to be a star here in Washington.

Whether at CTIA, the first time, at the dawn of the mobile era; or at Covad where I got to know her well; or during her years in public service at the State Department, Commerce Department, the White House, or the FCC, Meredith has been a model of quiet dynamism.

In a town full of egos and bluster, it is refreshing to know someone who prefers to emphasize warmth and grace. It's a joy to know a woman who is tough and smart yet feels no need to prove that she is either.

I would like to share a personal story. I've done a couple of presidential transitions. Transitions are difficult and can be unpleasant. One team is moving out and a new team is moving in. I did the transition for NTIA for then-president elect Obama while Meredith was serving as acting administrator of the agency. She could not have been more helpful and professional. You see, Meredith cared about the agency; she cared about the people she worked with who would not be leaving because of the transition; but, most importantly, she cared about NTIA's mission as an advisor to the president and manager of our nation's spectrum resources.

But that's what has always struck me about Meredith: Her sense of fairness...

She's not interested in posturing or politics, just progress and good policy. The Media Institute's American Horizon Award is given for leadership in the media and telecomm industries...

In Meredith you have selected precisely the right person. In her role as CEO of CTIA she will help define the future of both the media and video industries.

Mobile phones are not merely communications devices anymore. They are media devices. They are computers, video screens, magazines, books, health monitors, environmental sensors, and so much more.

Today, 70 percent of adults on the planet have a mobile phone. Within five years that number will be 80 percent.

Ninety-one percent of adults have their mobile phones within arm's reach 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are the almost indispensable device for most of us.

But it is important to remember that the mobile revolution is not just about smartphones. Our new mobile world includes the Internet of Things, which will result in the connection of 50 billion devices; wearable devices; mobile health devices; virtual reality; agritech; mFinance; and connected education.

Meredith is going to be at the forefront of policy formation and market development for those products, services, applications, and more. She will be ensuring we have the spectrum resources and the regulatory models to propel even more innovation and innovative products.

Think of all that has happened in the last 20 years. Then realize that the next 20 will be even more innovative ... particularly in the mobile field.

This industry and this nation will need the skills that Meredith has in abundance as mobile innovators continue inventing the future.

But I don't want to mislead you; Meredith is not interested solely in policy and commerce. She also has a deep social conscience that causes her to focus on STEM education to ensure that every American can benefit from this technological bounty and have the skills they need to succeed.

She also brings a focus on greater inclusion of and opportunities for girls and women. Women are grossly under-represented in the field of technology. But in our society women also disproportionately carry the burdens of educating our children, healing our sick, and taking care of our elderly. They do the things that keep our society whole and healthy. And Meredith is dedicated to helping ensure they have the tools they need to prosper in our society and to participate fully in the mobile revolution.

Looking back at all Meredith has achieved, and knowing her vision and capacity for even greater achievements in the future, I am certain that she will continue to use her tools, talents, and experience for society's benefit and for the benefit of the media, technology, and telecommunications industries she represents. It is a distinct honor to present the American Horizon Award for visionary industry leadership to Meredith Attwell Baker.