



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NAMIC ANNOUNCES ROSTER FOR CLASS XVII OF THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**NEW YORK – OCT. 9, 2017** – The **National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC)** announced today the roster for **Class XVII** of its **Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP)**. ELDP Class XVII is the sixth cadre being presented in partnership with the University of Virginia Darden School of Business in Charlottesville, VA. Held on the Darden grounds, the program's fundamental goal is to prepare mid- to senior-level executives of color for leadership roles within the top ranks of the media and entertainment industry. ELDP Class XVII comprises four sessions, with the first beginning October 9, 2017. Subsequent sessions will be held in December 2017, and February and May of 2018. As an evolution of the curriculum, the February classes take place in the Washington, D.C. area.

"We welcome Class XVII and the opportunity to prepare this esteemed group of executives to advance in our complex and always-evolving industry," said **James C. Jones, NAMIC's SVP of Education and Diversity Solutions**. "We extend our sincerest thanks to our industry partners and Darden for their unwavering support of this vital professional development experience."

Having graduated more than 600 executives of color since the program's inception in 2001, ELDP addresses many of the industry's most persistent challenges: increasing diversity in the C-suite, retaining executives of color; and maximizing ROI of a diverse workforce in an increasingly competitive global and business environment. The program strengthens the competencies successful executives must have, exploring a wide range of business-critical topics, including corporate strategy, finance, marketing, innovation, and leadership agility, presented as integrated components of a holistic learning experience.

### **The members of ELDP Class XVII are as follows:**

- **Richard Aleong**, Executive Director, Technology & Product, Comcast
- **James An**, VP, Business Integration & Implementation, Spectrum Enterprise
- **Amit Bagga**, VP, Research & Development, Comcast
- **Danielle Brown**, Senior Director, Multimedia Sales, ESPN
- **Cindy Brown**, SVP, Program Planning & Strategy, Scripps Networks Interactive
- **Robert Burton**, Senior Director, Field Operations, Spectrum
- **Tom Chiang**, Senior Director, Video Products, Spectrum
- **Farai Chinouyazve**, Director, Executive Customer Relations, Comcast
- **Adwoa Dadzie**, VP, Human Resources, Comcast
- **Jamal Dawkins**, Senior Counsel, Employment Law, Spectrum

- **Janine Dawson**, Director, Learning & Development, Professional Knowledge, Comcast University
- **Vijay Dondeti**, Senior Director, Data Strategy & Product Research, Comcast
- **Bryan Esparza**, Executive Director, Paramount Pictures
- **Sonia Gomez**, Senior Director, Programming & Acquisitions, ESPN
- **R.K. Gopinath**, Executive Director, Products, Cox Communications
- **Amara Hahn**, Senior Director, HR HQ Marketing, Comcast
- **Parvathy Hariharan**, VP, Customer Experience Strategy, Comcast
- **Erick McKinney**, Director, Sales Effectiveness, Comcast
- **Delma Herrera**, VP, Field Sales – West Territory, Cox Communications
- **Tatiana Holifield-Arthur**, Senior Director, Social Marketing Strategy, BET Networks
- **Michelle Hylton**, Assistant General Counsel, Turner
- **Niti Jamdar**, Director, Product Management, Comcast
- **Deepak Kandaswamy**, Senior Director, Corporate Development & Strategy, A+E Networks
- **Raina Kelly**, Managing Editor of TheUndeated.com, ESPN
- **Wincie Knight**, Director, Global Inclusion Strategies, Viacom International Media Networks
- **Roberto Lacayo**, Executive Editor, Spectrum Networks
- **Sabrina Lewis**, Director, Business Affairs, Paramount Television
- **Todd Looney**, Director, Project Management, Spectrum
- **Rakesh Menon**, Director, Software Architecture, Comcast
- **Valerie Meraz**, SVP, Content Acquisition & Strategy, Turner
- **Marcella Milliet Sciorra**, VP, Ad Sales & Product Marketing, Spectrum Reach
- **Veronica Molina**, Executive Director, News Standards & Practices, CNN
- **Ravi Varma Muppalanarasaiah**, Senior Director, Engineering, Comcast
- **Steven Musembi**, Senior Director, Engineering Operations, Comcast
- **Mercedes Oteiza**, Director, Customer Account Executive, Comcast
- **Ganesh Palaniappan**, VP, Technology, Customer Operations, Spectrum
- **Niral Parekh**, Director, User Experience, Nickelodeon
- **Ashish Patel**, Executive Director, Viper Platform Engineering, Comcast
- **Melissa Price**, Senior Director, XH Business Operations, Comcast
- **S. Christina Shanks**, VP, IT Strategy & Business Operations, Altice USA
- **Angela Turner**, SVP, Affiliate & Consumer Marketing, REVOLT Media & TV
- **Nicole Vaughn**, VP, Human Resources, Turner
- **Elizabeth Veiga Martinez**, Senior Director, Product Management, Nickelodeon Digital
- **Wei Wei**, Senior Director, Engineering, Freewheel
- **Stephanie Yates**, VP, Research & Insights, AMC Networks

For more information about the Executive Leadership Development Program and other NAMIC programs and initiatives, visit [www.namic.com](http://www.namic.com). To stay connected, join the conversation on [LinkedIn](#) and follow us [@NAMICNational](#) using [#NAMICELDP](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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## **ABOUT NAMIC**

**NAMIC (National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications)** is the premier organization focusing on cultural diversity, equity and inclusion in the communications industry. More than 3,500 professionals belong to a network of 18 chapters nationwide. Through initiatives that target leadership development, advocacy and empowerment, NAMIC collaborates with industry partners to grow and nurture a workforce that reflects the cultural richness of the populations served. Please visit [www.namic.com](http://www.namic.com) for more information about NAMIC and its many opportunities.

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