



**NAMIC**

38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**DIVERSE VOICES!**  
*DEFINING THE FUTURE...*

**WELCOME TO THE  
2024 ANNUAL AWARDS**

# LUNCHEON

**HONORING** CHAPTER CHANGE AGENTS, LUMINARIES,  
NEXT GENERATION LEADERS, THE DIVERSITY IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD RECIPIENT,  
AND THE MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

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# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF DIVERSITY



**EMORY WALTON**

*CHAIR, NAMIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS*  
**NAMIC**

## **Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,**

Welcome to this year's NAMIC Awards Luncheon, a celebration of the exceptional leaders shaping our industry and advancing diversity and inclusion. Today, we not only recognize the remarkable contributions of our honorees but also reflect on the progress we continue to make toward a more equitable future in media, communications, and technology.

Since 2006, the Next Generation Leader and Luminary Awards have highlighted leaders who embody excellence and foster inclusion within their organizations. These awards reflect NAMIC's ongoing commitment to ensuring a strong pipeline of diverse talent, and this year's honorees carry that legacy forward with their innovative contributions.

We are also proud to honor those advancing inclusive innovation through the Diversity in Technology Award, and to continue the tradition of the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award, recognizing individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice and equality.

Thank you to our partners, sponsors, and supporters for your unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion. Together, we are building a stronger future for our industry and the communities we all represent.

Best Regards,

**Emory Walton**

*Chair, NAMIC Board of Directors*

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# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF DIVERSITY



**ANNE-MARIE BURTON**

CHIEF, STRATEGY & PROGRAMS  
NAMIC

**Dear NAMIC Community, Partners, and Friends,**

Welcome to this year's NAMIC Awards Luncheon! It is an honor to gather today in celebration of the remarkable leaders who are shaping the future of our industry through their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This luncheon is more than just a recognition of individual achievements—it's a reflection of our shared journey as an organization and an industry. With every passing year, we break new ground in amplifying diverse voices, ensuring they are both heard and empowered. Today's honorees, from the recipients of the **Diversity in Technology Award** and the **Next Generation Leaders** and **Luminaries** to the **Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award**, embody the very best of this progress.

Their leadership reminds us that the work of diversity and inclusion is ever-evolving. It requires vision, collaboration, and resilience. These trailblazers inspire us all by driving change not just within their companies, but across the broader industry.

As we honor their achievements, we are also focused on the future. NAMIC remains dedicated to fostering the next generation of leaders who will continue to reflect the rich diversity that fuels creativity and innovation in our field.

A heartfelt thank you to our partners and sponsors for your unwavering support. Together, we are building pathways for emerging talent and shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Warm regards,

**Anne-Marie Burton**

Chief, Strategy & Programs

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## NAMIC IS PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR 2024 ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON HOST



### **TOURÉ**

JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, AND TV HOST

**FRIEND OF TV ONE**

Touré is a TV host, a podcaster, and the author of eight books including the Prince biography *Nothing Compares 2 U*. He is also the host of the podcast *Touré Show*. He was the co-host of MSNBC's *The Cycle* and a host at MTV, BET, and TheGrio; a correspondent at CNN; and a writer for *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and many other publications. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two kids.

You can read his latest on his Substack *Culture Fries by Touré*.

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# 2024 NAMIC VISION AWARD WINNERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

## ANIMATION

The Proud Family:  
Louder and Prouder: Juneteenth  
– *Disney+*

## BEST PERFORMANCE – COMEDY

Ashleigh Murray - The Other Black Girl  
– *Hulu/Onyx*

## BEST PERFORMANCE – DRAMA

John Leguizamo - The Power  
– *Prime Video*

## CHILDREN'S

American Born Chinese: What Guy Are You  
– *Disney+*

## COMEDY

UnPrisoned  
– *Hulu/Onyx*

## DIGITAL MEDIA – SHORT FORM

Ritual  
– *PBS*

## DOCUMENTARY

See it Loud:  
The History of Black Television  
– *CNN Original Series and  
The SpringHill Company*

## DRAMA

Found – *NBC*

## LIFESTYLE

Searching for Soul Food  
– *Hulu/Onyx*

## NEWS/INFORMATIONAL

"Homebirth Journey: Saving Black Moms" from  
*The Whole Story with Anderson Cooper*  
– *CNN Worldwide*

## ORIGINAL MOVIE OR SPECIAL

Shooting Stars – *Peacock*

## REALITY

CritterFixers: Country Vets: Ready, Vet, Go!  
– *Nat Geo WILD*

## REALITY – SOCIAL ISSUES

OWN Spotlight:  
Oprah, Courtney B. Vance & Dr. Robin  
– *OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network*

## SPORTS

SC Featured: The Lone Wolves  
– *ESPN*

## VARIETY/TALK SHOW

OWN Spotlight: Oprah & Kerry Washington  
– *OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network*



## NAMIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE 2024 CHAPTER CHANGE AGENTS

### NAMIC CHAPTER CHANGE AGENTS ARE SELECTED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIVE VITAL AREAS:

- **Leadership** – This includes guiding the chapter board through accomplishments and challenges while succession planning for the next team of leaders
- **Commitment** – Attendance to meetings/events and always showing up and putting their best foot forward no matter the circumstance
- **Ambassador** – The voice behind the corporation. Speaking and representing the NAMIC brand in a professional manner
- **Self-Starter** – Is able to see the final goal and take the steps necessary to get there without waiting on instruction
- **Collaborator** – Ready and willing to work with peers to make something small bigger and better by joining forces

### 2024 CHAPTER CHANGE AGENTS

- **Denya ChinQuee**, NAMIC-New York President, *Senior Director, Market and Cultural Intelligence, Paramount*
- **Dwayne Edghill**, NAMIC-Philadelphia President, *Senior Manager, XGIE Program Delivery, Strategy, & Planning, Comcast NBCUniversal*
- **Justin Sandoval**, NAMIC-St. Louis President, *VP, Major Account Manager, Hospitality, Charter Communications*

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# NAMIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE 2024 CHAPTER CHANGE AGENTS



## **DENYA CHINQUEE**

NAMIC-NEW YORK PRESIDENT  
SENIOR DIRECTOR, MARKET  
AND CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE  
PARAMOUNT



## **DWAYNE EDGHILL**

NAMIC-PHILADELPHIA PRESIDENT  
SENIOR MANAGER, XGIE PROGRAM DELIVERY,  
STRATEGY, & PLANNING  
COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL



## **JUSTIN SANDOVAL**

NAMIC-ST. LOUIS PRESIDENT  
MAJOR ACCOUNT MANAGER, HOSPITALITY  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

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# NAMIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE 2024 LUMINARIES

## NAMIC LUMINARY AWARDS

The **NAMIC Luminary Awards** honor up-and-coming leaders who show the most potential to become tomorrow's movers and shakers. These men and women are the rising stars in our industry who demonstrate strong leadership skills and embrace NAMIC's mission by working to advance multi-ethnic diversity.

### 2024 LUMINARIES

- **Alexander Abrales**, Group Vice President - National Field Support, **Charter Communications**
- **Celia Bouza**, VP, NEXT and Social Production, **ESPN**
- **Anabel Chavez**, VP, Customer Service Operations, **Charter Communications**
- **Nancy Chavez**, VP, Inbound Sales and Retention, Sales & Marketing, **Charter Communications**
- **Kimberly King**, VP, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Global Advertising and Partnerships, **NBCUniversal**
- **Zoraida Luciano-Barnett**, VP, Market Intelligence, Sales & Marketing, **Charter Communications**
- **José Morales**, VP, Production, ESPN Features, **ESPN**

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### **ALEXANDER ABRALDES**

*GROUP VICE PRESIDENT - NATIONAL FIELD SUPPORT  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS*

Alex Abraldes oversees Charter's new National Field Support organization responsible for the coordination of all technician support functions, ensuring liaison support for Sales and Customer Operations partners.

Prior to joining Charter to transform its tech support organization in 2021, Abraldes spent more than 27 years in telecommunications leading sales and customer service centers, global project management initiatives, and field operations enterprises. The delivery of a virtualized tech support model has driven down call volumes and delivered multi-million-dollar cost savings in increased efficiencies.

A University of Notre Dame graduate, Abraldes has championed diversity leadership efforts throughout his career, seeking to encourage and mentor next generation leaders. Active in his local community, he and his wife are also proud founders of the Cure SMA Care Package program for diagnosed infants.

Abraldes and his wife have been together for nearly 40 years and enjoy the blessings of three daughters.

**“** *I am so proud to be a 2024 NAMIC Luminary. NAMIC provides incredible support and advocacy on behalf of its members, and I'm grateful to be honored with this recognition and feel empowered to carry on the legacy of advancing diversity and inclusion in the industry for our future leaders.* **”**

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### CELIA BOUZA

VP, NEXT AND SOCIAL PRODUCTION  
ESPN

Celia Bouza is a Vice President at ESPN, overseeing the NEXT program and Social Production. She has successfully created a diverse talent pipeline, contributing professionals to over 25 departments within The Walt Disney Company. Bouza established the NEXT Accelerator, a career development program for top talent. Promoted to VP in 2023, she previously served as Senior Director, managing over 250 production assistants and content associates.

Bouza's journey at ESPN began in 2010 as a production assistant, where she produced content for shows like *SportsCenter* and *Sunday NFL Countdown*. Her work as an associate producer earned her consecutive Emmy awards for *College GameDay* features. Bouza also contributed to production enhancements, facilitating innovative techniques and managing motion graphics teams, which earned her a third Emmy for *Monday Night Football*.

A native of Bakersfield, California, she holds a degree in communications from California State University, Bakersfield.

“*Being honored by NAMIC as a Luminary profoundly acknowledges my dedication to fostering diversity and inclusion in media. It underscores the importance of creating career pathways and empowering diverse talent. This award inspires me to continue championing authentic representation and driving positive change in our industry.*”

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### **ANABEL CHAVEZ**

*VP, CUSTOMER SERVICE OPERATIONS  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS*

Anabel Chavez, Vice President of Customer Service Operations at Charter Communications, has over 20 years of experience in the wireless, satellite, connectivity, and cable industries. Her career began as a frontline customer service representative, giving her a unique perspective in connecting and supporting all levels within her Spectrum Spanish/English technical support contact centers.

Anabel has made significant community impacts through her leadership roles. She was a founding member of the Spectrum Multicultural Business Resource Group, serving as co-chair from 2018 to 2021. She has served on the boards of the Texas Workforce Gulf Coast Chapter and the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE). Anabel is also a member of NAMIC and serves on the board as membership co-chair for WICT Greater Texas.

She joined Charter in 2017 from Concentrix to launch the Spanish/English site in McAllen, Texas. Anabel holds a Bachelor of Science in Leadership from Bellevue University.

**“** *It is with deep gratitude that I accept this honor from NAMIC. Together, we are shaping a future where every voice is heard and every individual has the chance to thrive. I'm dedicated to continuing my mission to inspire change and create opportunities for all. Thank you, NAMIC.”*

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### **NANCY CHAVEZ**

*VP, INBOUND SALES AND RETENTION,  
SALES & MARKETING  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS*

Nancy Chavez is the Vice President of Inbound Sales and Retention Operations at Charter Communications, where she leads a dynamic and diverse team supporting over 10,000 employees and vendors across various sales channels. With over 20 years of experience in call center leadership, Nancy has previously held significant roles at TELUS, DIRECTV, and CitiCards. Since joining Charter in 2016, she has been instrumental in driving operational excellence.

Nancy is a member of NAMIC and WICT and recently graduated from the SCTE-Tuck Executive Leadership Program at Dartmouth University. She is also involved in Charter's Business Resource Groups, Spectrum Women, and Spectrum Multicultural, where she has served multiple terms as a mentor, empowering others in their professional journeys. Nancy holds a B.S. in International Business from California State University, San Bernardino.

**“** *Being honored by NAMIC recognizes my commitment to diversity and inclusion. As an Amerasian, the shared stories and power of diverse voices resonate with me. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that champions our journey toward equitable representation, understanding, and unity.*”

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### **KIMBERLY KING**

*VP, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION, GLOBAL  
ADVERTISING AND PARTNERSHIPS  
NBCUNIVERSAL*

#### **LEADERSHIP SEMINAR GRADUATE**

Kimberly King is a dynamic media executive with an extensive career at the intersection of culture across television, digital, music, and print. Kimberly serves as VP, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Global Advertising & Partnerships at NBCUniversal where she leads inclusion strategies that drive meaningful business outcomes for its employees and its advertising clients. Former VP of One Platform Marketing within NBCUniversal, Kimberly leveraged IP and strategic storytelling to deliver results for clients. Prior to NBCU, Kimberly created value with her integrated marketing expertise at Discovery, Inc. and BET Networks. Kimberly earned an MS, Integrated Marketing (Brand Strategy) and a Professional Certificate in Digital Media Marketing from NYU. She serves on the board of her undergraduate alma mater Wesleyan University, as well as the Board of Urban Arts (UA), helping students explore their creativity and harness technology to defy the odds from middle school through college. Kimberly resides in New York with her husband and son.

“*Media and advertising have the power to inspire and influence people to action, while authentically representing the world around us. I’m proud that our work at NBCUniversal—driving inclusion at the intersection of culture, content, and collaboration—is resonating with the community. Thank you, NAMIC, for recognizing me and the diverse voices: defining the future!*”

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### ZORAIDA LUCIANO-BARNETT

VP, MARKET INTELLIGENCE, SALES & MARKETING  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

**ELDP GRADUATE XXIII**

Zoraida Luciano-Barnett oversees Charter's Market Intelligence group and the process by which competitive intelligence and actionable insights are managed, developed, documented, and reported. Zoraida and her team are focused on maximizing the company's competitive performance and market share for both the residential business and the small-to-medium sized business (SMB) segments. Zoraida's prior experience includes leading multicultural marketing, acquisition, and migration programs at Time Warner Cable in addition to various New York-based advertising agencies.

She currently co-chairs Charter's Sales, Marketing, Community Solutions and SMB Diversity & Inclusion Council. She is also a recent graduate of NAMIC's Executive Leadership Development Program, Class XXIII, at the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business. Zoraida graduated from Manhattan College with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and International Business.

**“** *It's an honor to receive this Luminary award from an esteemed organization like NAMIC that champions diversity and inclusion. This recognition reinforces my interest in continuing to promote inclusivity. I'm fortunate to work for Charter, a company that is intentional and committed to advancing diversity and inclusion across our business.”*

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## 2024 LUMINARY



### **JOSÉ MORALES**

VP, PRODUCTION, ESPN FEATURES  
ESPN

**ELDP GRADUATE XIX**

José Morales is Vice President of Production for ESPN Features, leading the award-winning group that is responsible for original storytelling content across ESPN's platforms. Joining ESPN in 2004 as an associate producer, he advanced to feature producer in 2007, creating features, teases, documentaries, and other original pieces.

In 2011, Morales became a senior producer, joining the ESPN Features management team while continuing to produce and direct long-form content. He directed the 2012 ESPN Film "26 Years: The Dewey Bozella Story," earning an Emmy nomination.

Morales has received numerous industry awards, including 15 Sports Emmys and 10 Edward R. Murrow Awards, notably winning the Murrow for "Best News Documentary" in 2013 for the SC Featured film "Carry On." He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut.

**“**Receiving the NAMIC Luminary award is a significant achievement and a testament to my commitment to diverse storytelling. It drives me to keep creating content within our Features group that breaks barriers and elevates underrepresented voices, ensuring that every story has the chance to be heard.”

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# NAMIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

## NAMIC NEXT GENERATION LEADER AWARDS (NGL)

The **Next Generation Leader Awards** represent the industry's top honor by recognizing the best-of-the-best. These industry leaders have distinguished themselves as thought leaders, trendsetters, and change agents. They embody the NAMIC mission and have actively worked to advance multi-ethnic diversity in the industry by educating, advocating, and empowering people and organizations.

### 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADER AWARDS HONOREES

- **Tony Guevara**, SVP, Inbound & Outbound Sales, **Charter Communications**
- **Tony Krueck**, SVP, Cox Mobile, **Cox Communications**
- **Maria Soares**, SVP, Production & Content Strategy, **ESPN**
- **Ravena Valentine**, EVP, Chief People Officer, **A+E Networks**

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## 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADER



### TONY GUEVARA

SVP, INBOUND & OUTBOUND SALES  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

Tony Guevara is Senior Vice President, Inbound and Outbound Sales, for the Sales & Marketing organization at Charter Communications. In his role, Mr. Guevara oversees strategic direction and execution for the company's inbound and outbound revenue-generating call centers. He is responsible for leading the largest sales channel with nearly 5,000 employees. Tony and his team are essential for executing Charter's converged connectivity approach, and their efforts have helped Charter become the fastest growing mobile provider with more than eight million lines.

Tony joined Charter in 2016 as part of the Charter-Time Warner Cable transaction, where he served as Group Vice President of Retention. He also held other roles including Vice President of Customer Service, Vice President of Inbound & Outbound Telesales, and Vice President of Retention. He is known for speed of action and expansion. He has demonstrated expertise and implementation of success measurements, compensation, training, scorecards, and operations. Previously, Tony led Time Warner Cable's sales strategies and standardization efforts in the west region.

A U.S. Army veteran, Tony's telecommunications career spans more than three decades. He began at Continental Cablevision as a frontline agent.

“I'm humbled by this honor and grateful to those who placed their trust in me and provided me with opportunities to learn and work alongside them. From my start as an agent to leading Charter's largest sales channel, grit, a commitment to the work, and striving for continuous improvement have been key to my advancement.”

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## 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADER



### **TONY KRUECK**

SVP, COX MOBILE  
COX COMMUNICATIONS

Tony started his career as a member of the USAF and the Wisconsin Air National Guard. He is now a 35-year veteran in the communications industry whose proven track record includes key senior leadership roles with Sprint Nextel, TELUS, and now Cox Communications. His varied experiences span operations, engineering, product development, and now general manager of Cox's mobile business.

Tony aspires to challenges both professionally and personally. He has climbed many mountains, including Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Aconcagua, and Mt. Rainier, and continues to search for the next peak to conquer. Tony's passion for community involvement includes chairing the JDRF Walk for the Cure in Calgary, supporting Project Patriot, and riding for the cure for cancer. Tony resides in Milton, GA with his wife of 24 years and is a proud father to a graduate of the University of Colorado and a junior at the University of North Georgia.

“I’m deeply honored by NAMIC’s recognition. I believe that building teams with unwavering grit and diverse perspectives creates success. This philosophy shaped a diversely talented and resilient Cox Mobile team, one that transforms big challenges into bigger achievements. This award is a testament to the remarkable impact of our efforts.”

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## 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADER



### MARIA SOARES

SVP, PRODUCTION AND CONTENT STRATEGY  
ESPN

**ELDP GRADUATE XXII**

Maria Soares, who joined ESPN in 1992, was named Senior Vice President of Production and Content Strategy in April 2022. She oversees all editions of SportsCenter, as well as ESPN's content creation and distribution strategy. Soares manages ESPN's universal news group and the coverage group, including bureau staffs, producers, and editors.

She spent 25 years on ESPN International and ESPN Deportes, overseeing event production, studio programs, and digital video teams. Soares has played a crucial role in launching over 10 ESPN networks and supporting over 12 global ESPN.com editions. She also led ESPN's global soccer production and NCAA Volleyball and Gymnastics coverage.

A cum laude graduate of Emerson College, Soares has accumulated numerous production credits, including four Olympic Games and several major sports championships. She serves on several ESPN groups and is a native of the Azores Islands, fluent in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

**“ I am incredibly humbled to receive the Next Generation Leader award. Focusing on team diversity makes our rewards more meaningful. I am blessed to have leaders and teams willing to embrace new ideas. This award reminds me that our work is appreciated and important, but there’s still more to do.”**

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## 2024 NEXT GENERATION LEADER



### RAVENA VALENTINE

EVP, CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER  
A+E NETWORKS

**LEADERSHIP SEMINAR GRADUATE**

Ravana Valentine is EVP, Chief People Officer at A+E Networks, having joined the company in 2020. In this role, Ravana oversees the People Team across A+E and its 1400 global employees, setting the strategic direction and the agenda for the People function. Ravana also leads the People Team's efforts to attract, develop, and retain top talent, as well as to enhance employee engagement, performance, and wellbeing.

Ravana is a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion and has been instrumental in advancing A+E's DEI strategy and initiatives. She works closely with Karen Gray, the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Diversity Officer, to foster a culture of belonging and respect across the organization.

Ravana is a member of SHRM and Women in Cable Television and serves on the Board of Directors for C2HR Content & Connectivity Human Resources. She resides in Long Island with her husband, Michael, and their 3 children.

“I’m honored to be recognized as a Next Gen Leader. At A+E, inclusion is integral to everything we do and intrinsic to every employee’s corporate goals. Harnessing and encouraging unique perspectives is key to our success, and for NAMIC to value this as much as we do is incredibly inspiring.”

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# NAMIC AND SCTE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT THE 2024 DIVERSITY IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD TO TONY SPELLER

## DIVERSITY IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD

The **Diversity in Technology Award** recognizes a leader of diverse ethnicity or race who has contributed to the advancement of digital innovation, customer experience, connectedness, digital infrastructure, operations, or intelligence in the media, entertainment, and tech industries. The NAMIC Diversity in Technology Award is presented in partnership with the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE) and *Multichannel News*.

### 2024 DIVERSITY IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD RECIPIENT

- **Tony Speller**, SVP, Technology Operations and Engineering, **Comcast**

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## 2024 DIVERSITY IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD RECIPIENT



### **TONY SPELLER**

*SVP, TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING  
COMCAST*

Tony Speller is the Senior Vice President of Technical Operations and Engineering at Comcast's Central Division headquarters in Atlanta. He oversees Comcast's advanced network, spanning 17 states.

Tony started his long and successful career as a technician for Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI) in 1989. He has nearly 35 years of industry experience, holding numerous leadership roles across Comcast, including key positions in Pennsylvania, Boston, Western New England, and Houston.

Named a "Cable TV Pioneer" in 2018 by the Society of Cable Television Engineers, Tony has been heavily involved in several charitable organizations including the United Way, the Urban League, and the Greater Houston Partnership. His work has been recognized with the Urban League of Greater Hartford's Community Service Award and with the NAMIC Luminary Award.

**“** *I'm humbled and honored to be recognized for this award and thankful to NAMIC for all the many contributions to this industry. I couldn't do this without the support of my family, my team, and leaders at Comcast, who provide me with a platform to lead and innovate.”*

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# NAMIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE 2024 MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT, CHERYL WILLS

## MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Established in 1992 in memory of the late Congressman from Texas, the **Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award** is NAMIC's highest honor. In commemoration of Congressman Leland's lifelong advocacy of social justice and equality, the award recognizes individuals and companies representing the media, entertainment, and communications industry for their philanthropic achievements and commitment to advancing the concerns of people of color.

### 2024 MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

- **Cheryl Wills**, *Talk Show Host, Author, and Journalist*, **Spectrum News New York 1**

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## 2024 MICKEY LELAND HUMANITARIAN ACHEIVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



### CHERYL WILLS

TALK SHOW HOST, AUTHOR, AND JOURNALIST  
**SPECTRUM NEWS NEW YORK 1**

Cheryl Wills is an Emmy award-winning journalist for **Spectrum News New York 1**. As the first African American woman to host a prime-time nightly newscast for the cable network, Cheryl anchors the Emmy-nominated broadcast *Live at Ten*, weeknights. Cheryl has been with NY1 since its launch in 1992 and is one of the station's most recognizable journalists for breaking news and special coverage. She is also the talk show host of the weekly public affairs program, *In Focus with Cheryl Wills*, where she interviews the most powerful newsmakers and celebrities in the country.

Cheryl is also the acclaimed author of a series of books about her family's transition from slavery to freedom in the United States. *Die Free: A Heroic Family Tale*, *The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills*, *Emancipated: My Family's Fight for Freedom*, and *EMMA* all chronicle her 3x great-grandfather's heroic service as a member of the United States Colored Troops during The Civil War.

On March 25, 2011, Cheryl Wills made history as the first journalist invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly Hall for The International Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which was broadcast live around the world on UNTV.

Cheryl is most proud to be the Commander and Lifetime Descendant Member of the New York Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Colored Troops – a national organization of Civil War descendants who raise awareness about 200,000 black soldiers who bravely served during The Civil War. She is a graduate of the prestigious S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

[www.CherylWills.com](http://www.CherylWills.com)

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# 2024 ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

## 2024 PLATINUM SPONSORS



## 2024 SILVER SPONSORS



## 2024 BRONZE SPONSORS



## 2024 FRIEND SPONSOR



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# 2024 ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



## CENTERPIECES SPONSOR



## FOUNDATION SUPPORTER



## MEDIA PARTNERS



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# 2024 NAMIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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*Chair*  
*VP, Content Distribution*  
A+E Networks

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*Vice Chair*  
*VP, On-Air Talent Management*  
NFL Network

### **Mike Alexander**

*Treasurer*  
*Principal and Owner*  
Level Engineering LLC

### **Nilda Cid Gumbs**

*Chief of Staff*  
NCTA-The Internet & Television Association

### **Sonya Middleton**

*VP, Legal Operations*  
Cox Communications, Inc.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### **Charnelle Y. Anderson**

*SVP, Marketing and Creative Services*  
TV One & CLEO TV Networks

### **Sheereen Russell**

*EVP, Ad Sales and Client Partnerships*  
Warner Bros. Discovery

### **Gurinder J. Singh**

*VP, Legal*  
Altice USA

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*Sr. Director, Distribution Marketing*  
REVOLT Media & TV

### **Nyree D. Wright**

*Principal*  
NW Consulting

### **Jerold Lambert**

*Emeritus*  
*Group VP, Legal Affairs*  
Mediacom Communications

### **Cheryl M. Manley**

*Emeritus*  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
*SVP & Associate General Counsel*  
*Employment Law*  
Charter Communications

### **Pragash Pillai**

*Emeritus*  
*Chief Technology Officer*  
Hotwire Communications Ltd

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Marketing Communications Specialist  
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EA to EVP/Partnership Marketing and Distribution  
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Strategic Initiatives  
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Asst. Dean, Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion  
(JEDI) Initiatives  
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*New York Chapter President  
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Skydance*

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## 2024 NAMIC NATIONAL STAFF

### **Anne-Marie Burton**

*Chief, Strategy and Programs*

### **Sandra Girado**

*Vice President, Events and Partner Relations*

### **Amy Kemp**

*Programs Associate*

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*Marketing and Operations Coordinator*

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