Raymond Bell, Jr.
H.O.P.E. Project DMV
Reaches a 10-Year Tech Industry Milestone

INSIDE

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
Black News Channel sets launch date
Amazon CEO visits Inner-City school
2019

Annual
Community & Technology
Awards & Holiday Soirée
Washington, D.C.

SAMSUNG USA
700 Penn
Capitol Hill
Thursday, November 21st, 2019
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

RSVP by November 15th: bdpadc.org • Sponsor 2020 Coding Teams: partners@bdpadc.org
BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1975 to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 43rd year (Volume XLIII) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters. For bdpatoday or web banner advertising rates, publication schedules, and online calendars with Industry events, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Since The H.O.P.E. Project DMV (HOPE) launched in September 2009, it has proven to be a very bright light across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and the National Capital Region. During this month’s National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) activities, their light continued to shine even brighter. HOPE’s methodology allows them to connect with youth and young adults under their tutelage and also assists in reshaping their lives. Over 22 cohorts later with over 1,100 new young adult technical professionals added to the region’s workforce, HOPE Alumni are providing new [tax] revenues across the National Capital Region to the tune of several millions of dollars per year to the District of Columbia and surrounding counties. Several alumni are supporting billion-dollar federal and defense programs. In direct support of CBC’s TECH2020 initiatives, National BDPA’s Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter (BDPA DC) is this year’s H.O.P.E. IT Summit Host BDPA Chapter.

HOPE Alumni, BDPA Members, and BDPA Student Members were invited to attend this year’s IT Summit on Saturday, October 19, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Open to the public, attendees were invited to learn how to earn more in a variety of new entry level technical career paths. Members of the HOPE Project’s Hall of Fame presented workshops and served as Industry keynotes.

Mr. Raymond Bell, Jr., HOPE’s Founder proudly stated “We are empowering young adults to take ownership and control of their own destiny. HOPE IS REAL!”
WASHINGTON, D.C. — They said: “Ray, you are not going to be able to do this.” “Raymond, we are ‘not able’ to support this program.” “Mr. Bell, we won’t be able to provide media coverage today.”

The journey continues, a new book is being written, and a powerful movie will be made. Now in its tenth year, the H.O.P.E. Project DMV (HOPE) has successfully developed a proven approach to broaden community engagements within the tech industry and the Defense Industrial Base (DIB). HOPE’s program continues to source untapped talent from traditionally underserved communities for classified and unclassified entry level technology roles. Starting salaries for GED credentialed candidates, high school graduates, and returning citizens with newly minted tech industry certifications approach $35,000 for tens of thousands of unfilled entry level and junior level technology positions. Several alumni already have reached HOPE’s “six-figure” club — some with Top Secret security clearances; A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications.

Opening these exciting new career pathways to a better way of life for families not only provides peace of mind, but significantly impacts economic growth for communities in the National Capital Region. Moreover, according to Defense One, technology is drastically altering what makes our nation strong, prosperous, and secure. The DIB is not only becoming a strategic innovation base, but a military artificial intelligence (AI) complex.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Augmenting Compatibility and Competition by Enabling Service Switching (ACCESS) Act, bipartisan legislation that will encourage market-based competition to dominant social media platforms by requiring the largest companies to make user data portable – and their services interoperable – with other platforms, and to allow users to designate a trusted third-party service to manage their privacy and account settings, if they so choose.

“Social media has enormous benefits. But, as we’ve seen, the tremendous dominance of a handful of large platforms also has major downsides – including few options for consumers who want to use social media to connect with friends, store their photos or just watch cat videos, but who face a marketplace with just a few major players and little in the way of real competition,” said Sen. Warner, a former technology entrepreneur and venture capitalist. “As a former cell phone guy, I saw what a game-changer number portability was for that industry. By making it easier for social media users to easily move their data or to continue to communicate with their friends after switching platforms, startups will be able to compete on equal terms with the biggest social media companies. And empowering trusted custodial companies to step in on behalf of users to better manage their accounts across different platforms will help balance the playing field between consumers and companies. In other words – by enabling portability, interoperability, and delegatability, this bill will help put consumers in the driver’s seat when it comes to how and where they use social media.”

“Your data is your property. Period. Consumers should have the flexibility to choose new online platforms without artificial barriers to entry. This bill creates long-overdue requirements that will boost competition and give consumers the power to move their data from one service to another,” said Sen. Hawley.

Online communications platforms have become vital to the economic and social fabric of the nation, but network effects and consumer lock-in have entrenched a select number of companies’ dominance in the digital market and enhanced their control over consumer data. The ACCESS Act would increase market competition, encourage innovation, and increase consumer choice by requiring large communications platforms (products or services with over 100 million monthly active users in the U.S.) to:

• Make their services interoperable with competing communications platforms
• Permit users to easily port their personal data in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format
• Allow users to delegate trusted custodial services, which are required to act in a user’s best interests through a strong duty of care, with the task of managing their account settings, content, and online interactions.

Previously, Senators Warner and Hawley have partnered on the DASHBOARD Act (June 29, 2019 article, bdpatoday.com) legislation to require data harvesting companies such as social media platforms to disclose how they are monetizing consumer data, as well as the Do Not Track Act, which would allow users to opt out of non-essential data collection, modeled after the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) “Do Not Call” list. — Office of Senator Mark R. Warner
## CYBER/Cybersecurity

### Impact

**National Security**

House: **H.R. 681**  
Senate: **S. 29**  


### Legislation

This legislation proposes a new “Office of Critical Technology and Security” to coordinate technology supply chain security efforts. The office, which would report to the President, would be assigned the task of stopping “the transfer of critical emerging, foundational, and dual-use technologies to countries that pose a national security risk” and developing a “strategy to inform the private sector about critical supply chain risks.”

### Objectives

Long term strategy of this bill is to maintain technological leadership with respect to critical emerging, foundational, and dual-use technologies and to increase public sector funding for research and development (R&D) that is key to maintaining our Nation’s technological leadership.

### Connecting the Dots

**BDPA Mission Partners:**

- Cultivate new and establish stronger BDPA Chapters to develop better cybersecurity outreach programs. Sponsor or Co-Sponsor DevSecOps and Cybersecurity events with BDPA and HBCUs while on-boarding new BDPA Student Chapters.

### Data Privacy

**Senate: S. 748, S. 1116**

Lawmakers and staffers in both chambers have been wrestling with broad data privacy legislation for some time. At press time, no compromise vehicles have been introduced by either chamber.

**S. 748** was introduced on March 12, 2019. This bill would update the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) to ban certain data collection practices on children under 16 without their consent. This bill also would require parental consent for children under 13.

**S. 1116**, the Balancing the Rights Of Web Surfers Equally and Responsibly (BROWSER) Act would require communications and tech companies to allow consumers to opt-in to collections of sensitive or proprietary information and opt-out of the collection of nonsensitive information or information already in the public domain.

**BDPA Mission Partners:**

- Invite Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to co-host, co-sponsor, and conduct quarterly or monthly workshops with local BDPA Chapters highlighting at least two (2) federal data privacy laws—the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which regulates medical information, and the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which regulates information belonging to children—two (2) State and Local data breach laws or pending legislation, and the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which regulates how companies collect, use, and share EU citizens’ online information.
**Impact Legislation Objectives Connecting the Dots**

**Computer Science Programs**

House: [H.R. 2500](#) passed July 12, 2019 and received in the Senate on September 10, 2019

Senate: [S. 1790](#) passed June 27, 2019

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) sets policy and authorizes spending levels for national security programs in fiscal 2020 (FY20) which begins October 1, 2019.

**Cybersecurity Programs**

**Student Programs:**

- **SEC. 516** of NDAA 2020 establishes Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Computer Science and Cybersecurity Programs with participating schools

- **SEC. 520** supports US Coast Guard JROTC pilot programs (see page 20).

**BDPA Mission Partners:**

BDPA Student members not already engaged in their local BDPA Chapter’s SITES program are invited to participate in regional Youth Conference of Network Defenders (Y-CND) events and national CyberPatriot events.

BDPA Chapter Sponsors and Mission Partners are invited to co-sponsor transportation, equipment, and tee-shirts or provide coaches, mentors, and judges for youth competitions.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association (AFA) to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation’s future.

At the core of the program is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, the nation’s largest cyber defense competition that puts high school and middle school students in charge of securing virtual networks.

Other programs include AFA CyberCamps, an elementary school cyber education initiative, a children’s literature series, and CyberGenerations—a cyber safety initiative geared toward keeping senior citizens safe online.

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*Darren Young* (standing, right) of National BDPA’s Indianapolis Chapter, was one of several technology professionals available from National BDPA’s Industry mission partners and corporate sponsors supporting and mentoring National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) finalists and annual Youth Technology Camp (YTC) participants at this year’s CyberPatriot workshop during [BDPACon19](#) in Atlanta, Georgia. — [BDPA](#) photo © 2019
NEW YORK — In a joint teleconference broadcast live from the Four Season’s Hotel in New York’s Financial District, the Black News Channel (BNC) and the National Newspaper Publishers Association announced the official launch date and time for the nation’s first 24-hour, 7-days a week all-news TV channel that will focus on African American news.

The new channel promises to inform, educate, and empower nearly 50 million African Americans now living in the United States.

The potential for the network appears almost limitless.

BNC will immediately have the potential to reach 33 million households daily in all the major media markets across the nation.

Combined with the millions of readers who consume information from NNPA’s Black-owned newspapers and media companies each week, the BNC could quickly become the top destination for all who want to consume African American news on TV and on mobile devices.

BNC, which officially launches at 6 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2019, has agreements with Charter Communications, Comcast and DISH TV. The network already has commitments for carriage in major African American hubs like Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington, DC, Baltimore and Los Angeles.

Tallahassee, Florida, houses BNC’s headquarters, and the network will have news bureaus around the country, including Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Former Republican U.S. Congressman J.C. Watts is chairman of BNC, which is backed financially by business mogul and Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan.

— See BNC on page 11
“This platform will create a venue for the African American community to have a dialogue to talk about news, education and cultural things,” stated Watts, who added that the network has been in the planning stage for many years.

“I had an afro when I started this,” Watt referenced. “It’s especially important to have the Black Press of America join us in this venture. I bet most people don’t realize that there are 223 African American-owned newspapers in the NNPA, and that’s content for us,” Watts stated.

“We suffered a big blow with the loss of Ebony and Jet, publications I grew up reading. But I still read the Black Press in Oklahoma City, growing up.”

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., who participated in the teleconference, said the NNPA’s partnership with the BNC is a profound win-win for Black America.

“This year marks the 192nd year of the Black Press of America. Black Americans striving for excellence in all fields of endeavor give life to our culture that attracts and impacts all people. We set trends for ourselves and others,” Chavis stated.

“We’re not a cursed people, and we are a blessed people. We continue to strive for excellence, and to have Shad Khan announced as a primary investor for the launch and sustainable development of the BNC is of major significance,” Chavis noted.

Kahn told NNPA Newswire that the decision to back BNC was easy once he looked at the mission and the business model.

“I am a big believer in the fact that we have a number of communities, obviously especially the African American community, who are underserved,” stated Kahn, a magnate in the auto equipment industry.

In addition to the Jaguars, he owns the Fulham Football Club of the English Football League, All Elite Wrestling, and the Four Seasons Hotel Toronto.

“I hope that as time goes on, this becomes a bridge to connect all the cultures, including obviously south Asian. But I do believe there is an undeniable calling for everything the Black News Channel will deliver to African American television audiences, who have historically been underserved in an era where networks have otherwise successfully targeted news to specific demographic groups and interests. My decision to invest is an easy one because we get to answer that calling,” Kahn explained.

Both Watts and Kahn promised that BNC will give a voice to the varied experiences of African Americans and will not just tell a segment of the story but will tell the entire story.

“We will inform, educate, inspire, and empower the African American community,” Watts added.

BNC will have three primary anchor teams who will host the network’s evening newscast, morning newscast, and mid-day D.C. Today Live broadcast. In addition to primary anchor teams, BNC also will have high-profile expert contributors who will add commentary and information to each newscast.

The network will work with historically black colleges and universities to ensure that all African Americans have a voice.
Founded by Raymond Bell, Jr., HOPE knows this all too well and has always recognized an urgent need to upskill local communities since inception. Over 25 cohorts later and owning unique relationships with industry trade associations such as CompTIA, HDI, and BDPA, HOPE continues to prepare HOPE alumni for advanced pursuits, and certifies cybersecurity professionals for trans-generational sustainment. Moreover, HOPE alumni are industry’s new project managers and hiring managers.

During 2019’s HOPE IT Summit in Washington, D.C., conference and tech summit attendees met with IT professionals, small business executives, and workshop presenters, some of whom “walked in the same shoes” and recently launched their careers with HOPE.

New technologies notwithstanding, emerging success stories with industry and the DIB from suppliers and local communities hardly ever are deemed newsworthy. HOPE has changed this narrative. This year’s I.T. Summit was an annual value-packed information technology conference with Industry offered at no cost to District Residents, HOPE students and alumni, BDPA Members, and the public. Participants were able to discover new concepts while discussing industry’s requirements with HOPE alumni and Industry panelists. Government contracting with related start-up opportunities, acquiring security and facilities clearances, and pursuing degrees while entering technology fields were discussed.

Join the conversation by visiting bdpatoday.com
MMTC Commends National Civil Rights Organizations and the New T-Mobile for Their Diversity and Inclusion MOU

WASHINGTON — The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) commends the thoughtful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently executed between the New T-Mobile and the National Urban League, National Action Network, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, OCA–Asian Pacific American Advocates, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and UnidosUS.

The MOU comprehensively addresses the need for minority participation and inclusion in T-Mobile’s workplace, C-suite, and board, as well as the company’s procurement practices, including a commitment for the New T-Mobile to achieve entry into the “Billion Dollar Roundtable,” a group made up of corporations that have spent at least $1 billion with minority and women-owned suppliers. The MOU ensures that T-Mobile will engage consistently in proactive, thoughtful outreach to the communities of color whose telecommunications needs are too often overlooked and underserved.

MMTC CEO Maurita Coley stated that “the MOU contains a host of realistic, effective, and measurable commitments to promote diversity and inclusion, in addition to some voluntary, aspirational diversity commitments. In concluding this MOU, the New T-Mobile and the National Civil Rights Organizations have demonstrated the power of true leadership, and a mutual commitment to social justice.”

Discover more tech headlines for your community via bdpatoday on LinkedIn or by visiting bdpatoday.com.
Amazon CEO, Jeff Bezos, visits an Amazon-funded computer science class at Dunbar High School in Washington D.C.

Amazon’s Future Engineer Program funds High School Computer Science Courses

SEATTLE, WA—Amazon announced this month it reached a new milestone—through its Amazon Future Engineer program, it is funding computer science courses in more than 2,000 high schools supporting students from underserved and underrepresented communities across the country. Benefiting more than 100,000 high school students, from Nenana, Alaska to Washington, D.C., Amazon is funding full-year Intro and AP computer science courses, primarily for public Title I schools that have never offered AP computer science courses before.

Amazon Future Engineer is a four-part, childhood-to-career program that works to inspire and educate 10 million children and young adults each year from underserved and underrepresented communities to try computer science. bt

– Source and photo: Amazon and NBC Washington
Earth Day Tech Summit

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