

Cablefax Daily™

SPECIAL EDITION

Introducing the 2022 Cable Hall of Fame Class

The newest members of the prestigious Cable Center Hall of Fame will be celebrated at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City on Sept. 15. Join us in learning more about these leaders and their contributions to the industry in this excerpted Q&A.



Patricia Jo Boyers
President/CEO/Co-Founder
Boycom Cablevision

What do you think Washington fails to understand when it comes to deploying broadband? It would be a much shorter list if you had asked me what Washington regulators did understand.

We have specific geographic limitations with vast areas of unpopulated terrain which they only see as “unserved census blocks” on a digital Google map. I say to them, “Get the hell out of Washington DC.” Come to Southeast Missouri and I will personally lead each and every one of them on a tour of their lifetime. Then and only then will they be able to understand the delicate balance under which rural independent operators maintain, expand and improve our services to reach this Great Digital Divide—and not because of them, but in spite of them!

What has been your biggest revelation since serving as chair of ACA Connects? I was sure upon taking the chairmanship that retransmission consent would be my legacy. Not so much! Leading the board of directors through this leadership change for ACAC after 25 years under Matt Polka—now that has been a revelation! However, our biggest revelation is yet to come as we navigate this barrage of federal money that will begin to pour out on top us. ACAC will remain ever vigilant to protect our members from imminent overbuilding.

What advice do you have for women who also want to be an entrepreneur? Bluff hard and run fast! Risk is probably the biggest hurdle that many simply cannot jump. I think for women this is especially true. We are by nature security seekers, dedicated to nurturing. A strong woman must first believe in herself—even when she is the only one who does! BRAINS, BALLS & BORROWED MONEY. This is how it is done! However, I didn’t do this alone. [My husband] Steve has always been the idea guy. I am the one who took his ideas and put legs to them. We make a pretty good team.

What does being inducted into The Cable Center Hall of Fame mean to you? I am completely blown away and humbled. But what this really means is not for me, but for every small, independent, rural operator in this great country,

especially our ACAC members from sea to shining sea. WE MADE IT! We have been recognized! We have arrived! We have a seat at the king’s table and we’re here to stay!



Kevin Casey
President, Northeast Division
Comcast Cable

You’ve been running the Northeast Division for Comcast for nearly 20 years. Why have you stuck with it so long? This industry is so dynamic—in-

novation and entrepreneurship are at its core and I’ve been surrounded by smart, talented people.

The Northeast Division covers 14 states, from Maine to Virginia. How do you keep a pulse on what’s happening out in the field? I work with extremely talented and committed teammates and senior leadership teams who are embedded in each of our local markets. We spend a lot of time together sharing insights and working as one unit to capture the scale of the company while remaining nimble as we focus on delivering a great employee and customer experience.

What do you see as the industry’s next big innovation? 10G, which builds on the work Comcast has done over the past several years to build a smarter, more virtualized network.

What does it mean to you to be named to the Cable Hall of Fame? An absolute honor and privilege. Some of the people who I consider to be mentors have this distinguished recognition and to be included in the list among them is incredible. This is also reflective of my teammates over the past 40 years who have been an inspiration to me.



Chris Lammers
COO Emeritus & Senior Executive Advisor for CableLabs

How has member development shifted from when you first joined CableLabs in 1997? When I started at CableLabs, we had 30 members—29 of which were from Canada and the U.S. We now have

63 members from across Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America and North America—with the majority from outside the U.S. and Canada. Adoption of the technologies developed at CableLabs on a global scale is clearly ambitious, yet an objective that has been realized through a diverse, highly talented group of individuals at CableLabs collaborating to advance innovation for the cable industry.

Can you talk about the relationships you’ve created with small and medium-sized operators? Coming from a medium-sized operator, I developed an affinity for smaller and mid-market operators with an understanding of their networks, markets, services and operations—and their challenges, those similar to and those distinct from their larger brethren. In 2007, [former CableLabs President/CEO] Dick Green and I formed a group of these operators—known then and now as the Mid-Tier Operators [MTOs] —to share their unique priorities and challenges, not only in technology, but also in business and operations. What began with seven MTOs 15 years ago in an annual meeting has expanded to three summits a year with 15-20 operators who continue to collaborate, share and benefit.

What did you learn during your time as Partner at Cooper, White & Cooper and President/CEO of Western Communications? At Cooper, White & Cooper, I was exposed to a wide variety of commercial clients, industries, legal issues and transactions—coming away with an ingrained understanding of the critical importance of developing and maintaining relationships, often with the challenge of building consensus. Western provided a deep appreciation of the cable industry in an organization where employees, integrity and commitment defined the culture, together with building leadership teams that reflected not only our corporate culture, but also the values, experiences and spirit of the communities we served.

What does joining the Cable Hall of Fame mean to you?

This is an honor I never expected to receive given the impact and success of those who have come before me. Whether by accomplishment, luck or likely both, I am extremely humbled. I have always considered my role and the value I contribute as “behind the scenes”—not necessarily in the leading role but in a role supporting those with whom I work, learn, collaborate and move forward.



Tina Perry
President
OWN TV Network & OTT
Streaming

Your career in the industry began on the legal side. How have you applied some of those skills at OWN?

The business of entertainment was always where my passion lived, but law was a great path for me to learn about the business and was my entree to the media & entertainment world. At the start of my career I received some great advice: the truth about the entertainment industry is that it’s one big negotiation. For me, the skills I learned as a lawyer—working under high pressure, analytical abilities, effective communication, understanding the big picture—are all skills that I took with me into my senior leadership roles at the network.

You’ve established OWN as a brand for not only entertainment, but also for education and empowerment. How do you decide what issues to prioritize?

OWN is the leading destination for Black women. Our hallmark is programming featuring relatable characters and storylines grounded in

Daniels, Esser Receive Bresnan Ethics Awards



The Cable Center is bestowing the 2021 and 2022 Bresnan Ethics in Business Awards during this year’s Hall of Fame Celebration, recognizing the late Bill Daniels and former Cox Communications President and CEO Pat Esser. The Center established the award in 2011, naming it after the late Bill Bresnan, founder of Bresnan Communications and longtime Cable Center board chair.



Daniels was an early cable pioneer and founder of the Daniels Fund, a private charitable foundation that is focused on improving the lives for people in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program and ethics initiative. “On behalf of the Daniels Fund, I am honored to accept this award for Bill Daniels,” said Hanna Skandera, President and CEO, Daniels Fund. “He would have been extremely proud to receive this recognition along with Pat. He dedicated his life to the cable industry and to giving back to his community. His commitment to ethics and to being a steward of the next generation of leaders was unrivaled and we continue to see the impact of that commitment today.”

Esser retired as President and CEO of Cox at the end of last year after more than 40 years at the company. “I am thrilled to accept the Bresnan Award,” said Esser. “Bill Bresnan was not only a mentor, but also a friend, and I greatly admired his passion for our industry and to doing what is right in today’s business world. I am humbled to be named this year’s award recipient and I am thrilled to be recognized alongside Bill Daniels.”

real life told by today's visionary storytellers. Our social good campaigns were born as an output of this hallmark. Our goal is to continue to be in service to our communities and serving our audience through our social good campaigns like OWN Your Health, SeeHer and OWN Your Vote. These are a direct representation of key issues—voting, health and women's representation—that are deeply important to Oprah Winfrey.

What is it like to work alongside Oprah? Oprah is just like you think she is, the person you've watched on TV for many years, but she is so much more. Her connection to people, the way she fills the room with integrity, intention and aspiration is unlike anything I have ever seen. She inspires a belief that anything is possible and her ideas are almost always the best ones. One thing people might not know about her is that she has a great sense of humor and loves a good laugh.

What does this honor mean to you? By definition honor means to treat with respect and reverence. I will always hold this recognition in high regard, not only for the trust this organization has bestowed upon me; but also because as a once in a lifetime achievement, it is a culmination of years of personal passion, interest and hard work in this industry.



John C. Porter II
CEO
Telenet Group Holding

Telenet built the largest Giga-network in Europe. How has being a trailblazer benefited the company? Our leading position in future-proof networks enables us to always stay ahead, bringing innova-

tive connectivity solutions and value-adding business and entertainment products and services to our residential and business customers. We drive a culture of entrepreneurship and promote an innovation mindset across the entire Telenet organization.

Given your leadership of telecom companies on three continents, would you say there are more similarities or differences based on locale? Business practices, operational processes and systems are very similar, wherever you go. But what makes running a telecommunications company different in every country is the local market context. Given my background as a historian, I am keen to understand the historical, political and socio-cultural context of the local market. As a leader, one must understand what drives the local economy and capture how to motivate the company's employees and customers within this socio-economic context.

Who has been one of your biggest mentors? My mother Sandra Van Fossen has always been an important role model to me. I would also refer to Mike Fries as a source of inspiration. He leads Liberty Global with optimism, empowerment and appetite for risk taking, always staying the same whatever happens, whether facing beneficial tailwinds or challenging headwinds.

What does it mean to be a part of the Cable Hall of Fame?

I feel honored to be part of this esteemed institution. Since the start of my career 41 years ago, I have been fortunate to meet and work with so many talented people in this industry - people who share my vision, my values and my commitment. It has been a true privilege to be part of the worldwide cable industry from its early pioneering days until its leading position today as the driving force behind economic growth, societal progress and prosperity.



Michael Powell
President, CEO
NCTA - The Internet & Television Association

What's something about the cable industry you could really only appreciate running NCTA vs serving as FCC

chairman? Truly understanding the ins and outs of the cable industry—all of the intricacies, the challenges, the ever-evolving landscape, the consumer demands—requires getting to know the people behind the scenes who are keeping America connected. And those are the people at America's cable operators and cable programming networks. They are innovators at their core, and I'm proud to say that they represent NCTA's membership. It's through these relationships that I've come to understand how critical these companies are to shaping America's future.

As the head of an organization comprised of content companies and MVPDs, what is the common thread that links these two together in an increasingly direct-to-consumer world?

One word that describes both is future-ready. Both sectors prioritize meeting the increasing needs of consumers, and that means they continually evolve to stay ahead of demand. And they accomplish this by planning years in advance. We saw this with our broadband networks and their ability to resiliently withstand the historic surges in internet traffic over the past 2.5 years of the pandemic. Cable TV networks have also joined the streaming world with a plethora of new applications and services to give consumers limitless content options, whether at home or on the go.

Is there anything that gives you hope that bipartisanship can be a significant part of Washington?

Bipartisanship is a necessity and I do believe many of our policymakers recognize that. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was a historic step, and though it wasn't without its holdups and lengthy negotiations, it's an example of how ultimately, both parties want what's best when it comes to rebuilding America's infrastructure, and to ensuring that all Americans have access to high-speed broadband.

What does being inducted into the Cable Center Hall of Fame mean to you?

This is a huge honor, and it speaks to not just my efforts but also to those of my team at NCTA and our many supporters. We work tirelessly and eagerly to be the voice of our industry and our dynamic members. I'm proud to be an advocate for America's future through the cable industry, and I am so thankful for the recognition.



2022 CABLE HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to **ACA Connects Chairman Patricia Jo Boyers** on being inducted in the 25TH Annual Cable Hall of Fame.

