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January 14, 2025

Happy New Year!

Warm wishes to you and your family during this chilly time. Rolling right into 2025, I am excited to introduce the inaugural edition of my monthly newsletter.

On the second Tuesday of each month, please look forward to a list of updates thoughtfully curated by yours truly. If you are included in this list, it is because we have stayed in contact and I hope to continue serving as a resource for your impactful work.

Each month, I plan on compiling relevant broadband news for those interested in keeping up with national policy changes. I will also include interesting thought leadership, job openings, and partnership opportunities in the broadband and digital equity field.

I look forward to this new opportunity for collaboration and hope you will join me in this new adventure. If there is anything I can help elevate, please don't hesitate to contact me at CorianConsults@gmail.com.

Kind regards,
Corian

January Blog Post
How Starting a Business Increased My Self Compassion

The diagram illustrates the Three Pillars of Self-Compassion. It features a central circle with three colored segments: pink (top), blue (bottom), and orange (right). Each segment contains a small star. Surrounding the circle are three text boxes: 'Self-Kindness' (left), 'Common Humanity' (right), and 'Mindfulness' (bottom). The 'Self-Kindness' box defines it as 'Being gentle with ourselves in the face of disappointment' and credits Kristin Neff. The 'Common Humanity' box states that 'Mistakes connect us with humanity and provide unique opportunities to connect with others.' The 'Mindfulness' box describes it as 'Observing both positive and negative emotions objectively with respect for ourselves.'

When I held my business license for the first time, I expectedly felt joy, excitement, fulfillment, and thrill. What I didn't anticipate was a sinking feeling in my stomach. Opening a business was a lifelong dream of mine, I studied business in college, and continued in entrepreneurship programs in law school, so why was the anxiety, imposter syndrome, and shame so strong?

The first time I told someone that I wanted to start a business, I was 16. My mentor at the time enthusiastically supported my dreams. She listened patiently as I excitedly shared my idea for a local craft boutique. Crafting is a lifelong hobby of mine and at the time I made custom bracelets, hair accessories, and bows for my friends and family. As we walked through a local craft store together, surrounded by happy customers, custom lap desks, and every kind of craft supply I could think of, I realized the deeper purpose I wanted from a business—a chance to use my creativity to help others.

For the thirteen years following that moment, my dream of launching a business moved to the back of my mind as I pursued my degrees and career. Working part-time during college, I saw the differences between working at small local businesses and national corporations. Through law school, I learned to make a difference through policy work at national nonprofits. Starting a consulting business felt like a natural next step.

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To share information about your work or celebrate a thought leader, please
email CorianConsults@Gmail.com



[Final Guidance for BEAD Funding of Alternative Broadband Technology,](#)
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

"NTIA released guidance to clarify how states can use broadband funding to deploy technologies like Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite and unlicensed fixed wireless. The final Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice provides states and territories with additional guidance on issuing subgrants to these "alternative technology" providers. This notice gives states and territories additional flexibility and simplified processes for determining where Alternative Technologies can be funded, all while ensuring that states and territories may select the most robust technology for each BEAD funded location, including those locations in the most remote and difficult to reach areas. NTIA has also taken steps to significantly reduce barriers to participation by LEO satellite providers."

[UPDATE: Net Neutrality Open Internet Order Set Aside: Update on 6th Circuit litigation,](#) by Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit issued a decision on the consolidated petitions for review of the FCC's 2024 Open Internet Order. In its January 2 decision, which relies heavily on principles articulated in Loper Bright, the court held that the FCC's 2024 Open Internet Order reclassifying broadband as a telecommunications service misinterpreted the text of the Communications Act, and therefore the FCC's reclassification exceeded its statutory authority."

[More Than a Third of Americans Have Access to One or No Broadband Provider,](#)
Kevin Taglang, The Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

"The Federal Communications Commission released the [2024 Communications Marketplace Report](#) on December 31. By law, the FCC must publish a Communications Marketplace Report every two years, assessing the state of competition across the broader communications marketplace. The FCC must consider all forms of competition, including "the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services." The FCC must also assess whether laws, regulations, regulatory practices, or marketplace practices pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of existing providers of communications services."

[Wireless is apparently the new copper,](#) Mike Dano, Light Reading

Mike Dano observes that as providers like AT&T retire their copper networks, industry trends and the changing political climate will likely favor replacing legacy services with fixed wireless solutions.

[NTIA Recommends More than \\$250M in Grants for Digital Inclusion in 39 States,](#)
Carl Weinschenk, Telecompetitor

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is awarding 24 organizations with about \$250 million to support digital skills and inclusion projects in 39 states.

[North Carolina ISP celebrates latest subscriber milestone,](#) by Brad Randall,
Broadband Communities

[NH more than halfway to meeting broadband access goals,](#) by Maureen Milliken,
Nashua Telegraph

[City of Bloomington Recommended for \\$11.4 Million Federal Grant to Expand Digital Equity,](#) City of Bloomington, Indiana

[University \[of Michigan\] announces initiative to ensure digital accessibility,](#) by
Angel Mills

[Biden signs law easing rural broadband projects,](#) by Chris Teale, Route Fifty

[123NET Launches Long-Haul Fiber Route Connecting Grand Rapids and Lansing, Michigan,](#) via Telecompetitor

[Hawaii Announces Plan to Become First Fully Fiber State,](#) by Blake Ledbetter



[Do Digital Inclusion Initiatives Have Any Impact?](#), Dr. Erezi Ogbo-Gebhardt via Benton.org

[Why the 'digital divide' persists within Indigenous communities](#), by Chase DiBenedetto, Mashable

[For better social equity, invest in adult education and close the digital divide](#), by Christine Pinset-Johnson, Institute for Research on Public Policy

[Why critics say Meta's chatbot is 'digital blackface'](#), by Ayesha Rascoe via NPR



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[Wikimedia Foundation, Legal Fellow](#)
(Summer 2025)

[Principal Associate, Broadband, Outreach and Operations](#), Pew Charitable Trusts

[Visiting Director for Digital Equity](#), University of Illinois

[Tenure-Track Faculty Position - Bellisario College of Communications](#), Penn State University

[Research Analyst, HousingWorks RI](#), Roger Williams University



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