

FACEBOOK DIGITAL CHALLENGE EVENT
Remarks for Deputy Secretary Mayorkas

- Good morning and thank you for welcoming me to this exciting event. I'm pleased to be here with our partners: Facebook, EdVenture Partners as well as U.S. government agencies, including the the Department of State.
- I'd especially like to welcome the four universities teams that will be presenting today. You've travelled from far away to be here to address one of the Department of Homeland Security's top priorities: combatting violent extremism.
- Violent extremism in all its forms poses a persistent and unpredictable threat to the homeland and to countries around the world.
- Countering violent extremism is what you might consider a "wicked problem" – one that is difficult to solve because it is ever-changing and evolving.
- As Secretary Jeh Johnson has said on many occasions, "We are in a new phase of the global terrorist threat." In this new phase, we must utilize all our resources to prevent radicalization to violence.
- This includes outreach and empowering partnerships of trust with communities. At the Department of Homeland Security, we are working to catalyze and support community-based programs and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists.
- We also know that partnerships with the technology sector and companies like Facebook are important because violent extremists may exploit the internet to promote their nihilistic vision and falsely glamourize their work.
- The hard work you have done through the Peer-to-Peer Program shows that there are alternatives and ways for communities to speak out against online hate and terror in innovative and creative ways.
- I congratulate all the teams who have participated in the program. I look forward to hearing about the solutions you put forth for combatting violent extremism. Good luck!