

Jackson praises Google for releasing equal-employment data

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The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Internet search engine giant Google has done the right thing by releasing data of how many minorities and women it employs.

The California-based corporation is ranked 55th on the 2013 Fortune 500 list. Despite its success as a leader in the online industry, it and other high-tech companies have been criticized for not hiring people of color in large numbers.

Jackson said that Google's decision to release its equal employment opportunity report shows that the company is willing to be transparent and should be commended.

"Google's data will not be pretty, reflecting the lack of inclusion of African-Americans, Latinos and other people of color in technology," Jackson said in a statement issued after Google announced the decision. "But it is a move to take an honest and straightforward look at the data and then launch remedies to expand the participation of women and people of color in the tech industry. This move towards greater inclusion must begin at the top because most tech companies have zero blacks or Latinos on their boards and in their C-suites."

Jackson urged other tech companies to release their equal employment data, calling it "astonishing" that such information has not been made public.

"Silicon Valley and the tech industry have demonstrated an ability to solve the most challenging and a complex problem in the world and inclusion is a complex problem," he said. "Inclusion is a complex problem — if we put our collective minds together, we can solve that too."