

MD Digital Inclusion Education Summit

June 23, 2021

Montgomery County Maryland, the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband, and the University of Maryland Extension hosted the Maryland Digital Inclusion Education Summit bring together libraries, schools, digital inclusion programs to discuss development of digital equity curriculum and programs across the state. The State of Maryland has provided \$4 million in the FY22 budget to the University of Maryland Extension to create a new division to focus on supporting, training, developing curriculum, and disseminating awareness and educational opportunities to bridge the digital divide and support internet adoption statewide. Summit participants shared information about local on-going digital equity initiatives and programs, and talked about how to best meet future needs.

Panels

Power Conversation – How Counties Are Leading Digital Inclusion & Equity

Chief Information Officers (CIOs) for the Counties with the most unserved households discuss what Counties are doing to expand digital equity programs to include digital inclusion training.

Panelists: Jason Hardebeck, Director of Broadband and Digital Equity, Baltimore City Mayor's Office; Rob O'Conner, Chief Information Officer, Baltimore County; Wanda M. Gibson, Chief Information Officer and Director, Office of Information Technology; and Gail M. Roper, Chief Information Officer and Director, Department of Technology & Enterprise Business Solutions
Moderator: Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee, Director, The Center for Technology Innovation, author of the forthcoming book, "Digitally Invisible: How the Internet is Creating the New Underclass," and adjunct faculty, University of Maryland

Digital Inclusion in Maryland

A cross-section of Maryland digital inclusion providers share what they are doing to expand digital inclusion training.

Panelists: Shivali Haribhakti, Regional Director, Senior Planet Montgomery; Rev. Aleisha Langhorne, Pastor, Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church; Dr. Ellie Giles, Co-Founder and Principal, Virtual Apprentice; Mark Rivera, Education Manager, Byte Back Prince George's County; Elizabeth Hulett, Director, Western Regional Library
Moderator: Rev. Donna T. Keating, Montgomery County Office of Community Engagement

Digital Inclusion Successes and Challenges

A cross-section of leaders of organizations operating in Maryland share their experiences and insights to achieving digital equity and literacy in the urgent time of the Global Pandemic.

Panelists: Thomas Kamber, Executive Director, Older Adults Technology Services; Chrissie Powell, Executive Director, Byte Back Baltimore; Tia Price, Director, Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition;

Gabriel Fumero, Digital Literacy Program Manager, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation, College Park; Dorothy Stoltz, Director for Community Engagement, Carroll County Public Libraries

Moderator: Mitsuko R. Herrera, ultraMontgomery Director, Montgomery County

Developing Digital Inclusion Solutions for Maryland

Participatory discussion with Summit participants to share back priorities identified during the Ideation Lunch, and work to develop digital inclusion solutions and action items.

Discussion Leader: Dr. Elizabeth Bonsignore, Assistant Research Scientist, Director, KidsTeam, College of Information Studies (iSchool)

University of Maryland Extension Digital Inclusion Program

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) will lead the effort to support the new division of curriculum “focused explicitly on supporting, training, developing curriculum, and disseminating awareness and educational opportunities to bridge the digital divide and support adoption state-wide.”

Panelists: Dr. Jinhee Kim, Professor and Assistant Director, Family and Consumer Sciences Program Leader, University of Maryland Extension; Dr. Brian Butler, Professor and Senior Associate Dean, University of Maryland, College of Information Studies (iSchool); Dr. Galina Madjaroff Reitz, Faculty Program Director & Senior Lecturer, Bachelor of Science in Information Science Program, University of Maryland at The Universities at Shady Grove

Moderator: Tammy Clegg, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College of Information Studies (iSchool), Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership, College of Education