The 2024 Maryland Statewide Digital Equity Summit

Beyond the Divide: Best Practices & Collaborative Strategies in Digital Equity
October 15, 2024, | National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, MD

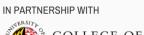| Time	Activity
8 – 9 AM	**Registration, Breakfast, & Networking**
9 – 9:15 AM	**Special Guest Remarks**
9:15 - 9:20 AM	**Remarks from the Maryland Department of Disabilities** **Speaker:** Carol A. Beatty; Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities
9:20 – 9:30 AM	**Welcome & Opening Remarks** **Speaker:** Mark A. Riccobono; President, National Federation of the Blind
9:30 - 9:50 AM	**Empowering Marylanders Online with UME & AGNR** **Speaker:** Dr. Jinhee Kim; Associate Director and Dean, UME The summit will open with a look into the future of Marylanders Online under the University of Maryland Extension (UME) and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR). Learn about UME's exciting new developments and initiatives designed to further empower Marylanders to thrive in today's ever-evolving digital world.
9:50 – 10:50 AM	**Keynote: Future-Proofing the Human Infrastructure of Broadband** **Speaker:** Dr. Revati Prasad; Vice President of Programs, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society The keynote address will examine the critical role of human capital in bridging the digital divide by introducing the "Human Infrastructure of Broadband." Led by the Benton Institute and partners, this research project studies the roles of people connecting communities to broadband and how their contributions are essential to building a sustainable infrastructure for digital equity.
10:50 - 11:05 AM	**Break & Networking**

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11:05 AM – 12:05 PM	**Higher Education Systems Plenary** The plenary session will explore UME's impactful work in digital equity from both a statewide and national perspective, expanding on concepts that showcase how higher education institutions can leverage their expertise and resources to connect with underserved communities, track and analyze data, and build the capacities of community organizations. **Panelists:** Stephen Alessi, Associate Director for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development; Katie Leach, Instructional Director for the University of Idaho Extension; Dr. Dondra Bailey, Assistant Professor, Coppin State University; John Horrigan; Senior Fellow, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society **Moderator:** Isaias Tesfalidet; Project Director, UME Marylanders Online
12:05 – 12:40 PM	**Lunch & Lightning Rounds** **Moderator**: Taylor Carter-Disanto, Deputy Director of Broadband & Digital Equity, Baltimore City Office of Information Technology **Caterering:** Zeffert & Gold
12:40 - 1:00 PM	**Digital Equity Awards Ceremony** **Moderator:** Dr. Mega Subramaniam, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty, College of Information
1:00 - 2:00 PM	**State Entities Panel** The State Entities Panel will address the Maryland State Digital Equity plan - from core strategies, state policies, and the statewide vision for the future. The session will examine the funding landscape for Maryland's digital equity initiatives, from current priorities to alternative sources of funding to outline a plan for future scalability and sustainability. The discussion will also explore how community technology centers play a vital role in expanding digital inclusion. **Panelists:** Amy Huffman, Policy Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance; Ronnie Hammond, Director of Maryland's Office of Statewide Broadband; Jay Uebel, Broadband Manager; Carroll County Broadband Projects; Ashley Teagle, CEO, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc. **Moderator:** Jake Varn, Broadband Access Initiative Associate Manager, Pew Charitable Trust

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2:00 - 3:00 PM	**Digital Equity Planning and Outreach Panel** This interactive panel discussion brings together state and local experts to address the essential best practices for implementing regional and county-level digital equity plans. Key focus areas will be on community outreach, outcomes-driven data collection, and building strong rural, urban, and state-level coalitions for inclusive and sustainable digital equity solutions. **Panelists:** Samantha Musgrave, Interim Executive Director, Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition; Molly Sherman, Executive Director, Carroll County Technology & Innovation Council; William Honablew, Digital Equity Coordinator, Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology; Vishnupriya Desai, Digital Equity Manager, Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband **Moderator:** Andrew Coy, CEO & President, Digital Harbor Foundation
3:00 - 3:10 PM	**Break and Visit Exhibitors**
3:10 – 4:10 PM	**Digital Skills Training Panel** This panel will explore lessons learned from successful training programs, focusing on programmatic themes, strategies for sustainability and scalability, reaching diverse populations, and how to curate effective digital skills curricula to equip Marylanders with digital skills to help bridge the digital divide. **Panelists:** James Neal, Senior Program Office, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Gabriel Fumero, Tech Educator, University of Maryland Extension; Rachael Stephens Parker, Executive Director, Governor's Workforce Development Board of Maryland; Maria Barga, Senior Planet Instructor and Tech Educator, University of Maryland Extension **Moderator:** Quiana Bannerman, Director, Maryland Center for Computing Education
4:10 - 5:10 PM	**Digital Navigation Panel** This panel will bring together experienced digital navigators from several organizations providing direct digital navigation services, or training others in digital navigation. Panelists will share their insights on the challenges and successes that have come with bridging the digital divide within their communities, and offer their knowledge and best practices in sustainable digital navigation work. **Panelists:** Diane Ducharme, Manager of the Veterans Directed Care Program, Image Center; Meinaldo Puente Batista, Digital Navigator, UME Marylanders Online; National Digital Inclusion Alliance; Rasheed Green, Digital Navigator, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Noah O'Ryan, Regional Program Manager, Older Adults Technology Services-AARP **Moderator:** Dr. Mega Subramaniam; Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty at UMD College of Information

5:10 - 5:30	**Summit Close Out** Isaias Tesfalidet; Project Director, University of Maryland Extension - Marylanders Online