# 2024 MARYLAND STATEWIDE
# DIGITAL EQUITY SUMMIT
## PROGRAM AGENDA

# *BEYOND THE DIVIDE:*

## *Best Practices & Collaborative Strategies in Digital Equity*

*National Federation of the Blind - Baltimore, MD*
*Tuesday, October 15th | 9 AM - 5:30 PM*

*Scan the QR Codes Below for More Information*

**Meet the Summit
Speakers & Panelists**

**UME Marylanders
Online Linktree**

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# 2024 MARYLAND STATEWIDE
# DIGITAL EQUITY SUMMIT
## PROGRAM AGENDA | OCTOBER 15, 2024

**8:00 a.m.** | **Registration, Breakfast, Networking, Visit Exhibitors**

**9:00 a.m.** | **Special Guest Remarks**

**9:10 a.m.** | **Remarks from the Maryland Department of Disabilities**
Carol A. Beatty, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities

**9:15 a.m.** | **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Anil Lewis, M.P.A, Executive Director, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute

**9:25 a.m.** | **Empowering Marylanders Online with UME & AGNR**
Dr. Jinhee Kim; Professor, Associate Director and Associate Dean, UME

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 initiatives that will further empower Marylanders to thrive in today's ever-evolving digital world.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand the Marylanders Online project and its significant impact on Maryland residents.
2. Explain the future direction of Marylanders Online under the umbrella of UME and AGNR.
3. Identify new UME initiatives designed to enhance the well-being and equity of all Maryland residents.

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**9: 50 a.m.**

**Keynote: Future-Proofing the Human Infrastructure of Broadband**
Dr. Revati Prasad, Vice President of Programs, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand the Human Infrastructure of Broadband Project and the work performed by a variety of broadband access facilitators.
2. Identify best practices for successful program models.
3. Explain strategies for ensuring the long-term sustainability of this work beyond the current federal investment in digital equity.

**10:50 a.m.**

**Break, Networking, Visit Exhibitors**

**11:05 a.m.**

**Higher Education Systems Plenary**
The plenary session will examine UME's digital equity work from both a statewide and national perspective, exploring how higher education systems can leverage their expertise and resources to connect with underserved communities, track and analyze data, and build the capacities of outside organizations.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand higher education's role in advancing digital equity.
2. Explain strategies for leveraging higher education system's resources to effectively engage with communities and address digital disparities.
3. Identify data-driven approaches used to measure and improve digital equity initiatives.

**Moderated by Isaias Tesfalidet**
Project Director, UME Marylanders Online
**Panelists:** Stephen Alessi, Associate Director for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development; Katie Leach, Instructional Director for the University of Idaho Extension Digital Economy Program; Dr. Dondra Bailey, Assistant Professor, Coppin State University; John Horrigan, Senior Fellow with Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

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**12:05 p.m.** | **Lunch Catered by Zeffert & Gold Catering**

**12:05 p.m.** | **Lightning Rounds**
*Concurrent with lunch*
This session will feature a series of three-minute presentations from community-based digital equity leaders who will share their valuable insights and actionable advice for how to approach digital equity initiatives from a community level.

**Moderated by Taylor Carter-Disanto**
Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Equity, Baltimore City Office of Information Technology

**Speakers:** Tyler Wolfe, Employer & Community Engagement Partner of Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley; Zach Tomlin, Founder of Tomlin Technology; Janae Henson, Executive Assistant of Tomlin Technology; Tony Schloss, General Manager of Apartments Wifi with EducationSuperHighway; Jade Burnham, Director of the AmeriCorps Digital Navigation Program with Digital Harbor Foundation; Mitsuko Herrera, Program Director of Montgomery Connects; Tom Branen, Director of National Service with Lead for America; Santana Mays, 4-H Agent with University of Maryland Extension - Baltimore County Teens as Teachers Program; Stefano Selorio, CEO & Founder of Carevocacy

**12:45 p.m.** | **Maryland Digital Equity Champion Awards Ceremony**
*Concurrent with lunch*
This special ceremony will present awards to individuals or organizations that were nominated and selected for their exceptional contributions to advancing digital access, skills, and accessible devices throughout Maryland.

**Emcee: Dr. Mega Subramaniam**
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty at the University of Maryland's College of Information (INFO)

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**1:00 p.m.**

### State Entities Panel

This panel will address the Maryland State Digital Equity plan - from core strategies and state policies to the statewide vision for the future. Panelists will examine the funding landscape for Maryland's digital equity initiatives, exploring current priorities and alternative sources of funding to plan for scalability and sustainability. The discussion will also examine how community technology centers play a vital role in expanding digital inclusion.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand the ways that residents can get involved in shaping Maryland's digitally equitable future.
2. Explain innovative approaches for achieving equity around digital literacy.
3. Identify strategies for Maryland State Digital Equity Plan's long-term success and impact.

**Moderation by Jake Varn**
Broadband Access Initiative Associate Manager with Pew Charitable Trusts
**Panelists:** Amy Huffman, Policy Director with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance; Ronnie Hammond, Director of Maryland's Office of Statewide Broadband; Jay Uebel, Broadband Manager of Carroll County Broadband Project; Ashley Teagle, CEO of Southern Maryland Regional Library Association

**2:00 p.m.**

### Digital Equity Planning and Outreach Panel

This panel 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.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Explain strategies for identifying and addressing local digital equity challenges and opportunities.
2. Identify best practices for building effective partnerships.
3. Understand how to implement actionable steps to move any digital equity plan from concept to reality.

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**2:00 p.m.**

**Digital Equity Planning and Outreach Panel** *(continued)*

**Moderation by Andrew Coy**
CEO & President, Digital Harbor Foundation
**Panelists:** Samantha Musgrave, Interim Executive Director of Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition; Molly Sherman, Executive Director of Carroll County Technology & Innovation Council; William Honablew Jr., Digital Equity Coordinator of Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology; Vishnupriya Desai, Digital Equity Manager of Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband

**3:00 p.m.**

**Break, Networking, & Visit Exhibitors**

**3:10 PM**

**Digital Skills Training Panel**
This panel discussion will explore lessons learned from successful training programs, focusing on program themes, reaching diverse populations, sustainability, and how to curate curricula to effectively teach digital skills.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Understand the key elements needed for developing successful digital skills training programs that address the needs of diverse populations.
2. Explain the importance of developing effective digital skills curricula and how to tailor them to meet the specific needs of target populations.
3. Identify how to create sustainable and scalable digital skills training programs.

**Moderation by Quiana Bannerman**
Director, Maryland Center for Computing Education
**Panelists:** James Neal, Senior Program Officer with the Institute of Museum and Library Services; Gabriel Fumero, Tech Educator with the University of Maryland Extension; Rachael Stephens Parker, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Development Board of Maryland; Maria Barga, Senior Planet Instructor and Tech Educator with the University of Maryland Extension

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**4:10 p.m.**

### 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.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand best practices for successful digital navigation programs.
2. Explain strategies for providing sustainable digital navigation services.
3. Identify how to cultivate strategic partnerships and collaborations that maximize resources and accelerate progress toward digital equity.

**Moderator:** Dr. Mega Subramaniam
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty at UMD College of Information
**Panelists:** Diane Ducharme, Manager of the Veterans Directed Care Program, IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities; Meinaldo Puente Batista, Digital Navigator, UME Marylanders Online; Noah O'Ryan, Regional Program Manager, Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP; Rasheed Green, Digital Navigator, Enoch Pratt Free Library

**5:10 p.m.**

### Summit Close-Out

Isaias Tesfalidet, Marylanders Online Project Director, UME

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