The 2025 Maryland Digital Opportunity Summit to Convene for Economic Growth and Workforce Innovation

The October 15 event in Silver Spring will spotlight strategies for digital inclusion, economic opportunities, and regional coalition-building.

SILVER SPRING, MD – The public is invited to join state leaders, policymakers, and community advocates at the 2025 Maryland Digital Opportunity Summit on October 15, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Silver Spring Civic Building. This year's theme, *"Investing in Maryland's Future: Invest Today. Empower Tomorrow. Fueling Economic Growth and Workforce Innovation Through Digital Opportunity,"* underscores the state's commitment to broadband access, digital skills, and equitable economic growth.

Keynote speaker Nicol Turner Lee, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and author of *Digitally Invisible*, will join Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman, J.D., to highlight national digital inclusion trends and the state's fiscal leadership in advancing sustainable economic development.

"Digital opportunities are essential for shaping Maryland's future economic landscape," said Jinhee Kim, Ph.D., Associate Director and Associate Dean of the University of Maryland Extension, who will deliver welcome remarks alongside Ronnie Hammond, Director of the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband. "This summit creates a vital platform for examining Maryland's progress and building the partnerships necessary to drive continued economic growth through digital opportunities."

Key Summit Highlights

The 2025 Summit is open to the public and invites anyone interested in shaping the future of Maryland. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with experts, participate in discussions, and learn about initiatives driving connectivity and innovation across Maryland. The summit will feature diverse expertise and representation from leading national and statewide organizations, including the Office of Statewide Broadband, the Maryland House of Delegates, LGBT Tech, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, the Rural Maryland Council, the Urban Institute, Johns Hopkins, and numerous community-based organizations.

To address the core components of digital opportunities, specialized breakout sessions will cover workforce development, infrastructure and broadband access, community engagement, policy advocacy, digital skills training, and innovative local programs.

A Partnership Speed Dating session will facilitate rapid networking connections, followed by coalition-building activities designed to transform initial contacts into actionable regional

partnerships. The Maryland Digital Equity Awards Ceremony will honor outstanding champions in four categories: Navigator, Practitioner, Program, and Workforce. The day will conclude with a networking reception at 4:30 PM, hosted by the Carroll County Technology and Innovation Council and CareerCatchers, Inc.

Registration Information

Registration for the 2025 Maryland Digital Opportunity Summit closes October 8, with a limited number of same-day registrations available at the event. To register, please visit https://go.umd.edu/dos25registration. For additional event information and a detailed agenda, visit the UME Marylanders Online website.

Sponsor, CEU, & Training Information

The 2025 summit is presented by the University of Maryland Extension's Marylanders Online initiative, in partnership with the College of Information and the Maryland Digital Equity Coalition. Comcast is the presenting sponsor, with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as the platinum sponsor. Space for this event was provided by Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) and is sponsored by Montgomery County Government.

Attendees may apply for 6 Health Education CECHs or 4 Category 1 Social Work CEUs. Summit registration also includes enrollment in the Marylanders Online Navigation Educator Toolkit (MONET) Digital Navigator Training Certification program.

About The University of Maryland Extension

Marylanders Online is an initiative of the University of Maryland Extension (UME) and the College of Information (INFO), funded by the state, that aims to bridge the digital divide throughout the state. For additional resources and information, visit marylandersonline.umd.edu.

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