



**Huntsville/Madison County Public Library Auditorium  
February 28, 2018 | 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

### ***Discussion Notes***

#### **Definition of “digital inclusion”**

Empowering/educating all people and groups to access and use information and communication technologies responsibly

#### **Resources/technologies currently available:**

- Broadband internet
- Students in HCS have devices of some sort (those in grades 3 and higher have laptops)
- Smartphones
- Cyber security programs
  - HCS
  - UAH
  - Drake State
- Apple’s “Swift Coding” certification program at Drake State
- Huntsville West programs
- SteamWorks – mobile programs for middle school students (high school students part of expansion efforts)
- Urban Engine programs (weekly free programs)
- Classes, hosted by financial institutions, on financial literacy and cyber security for online banking
- Library programs/hot spot availability
- HCS MiFi devices/wireless access
- Boys & Girls Clubs’ workforce development programs, including IT programs
- Redstone Arsenal/Marshall Flight Center and supporting contractors
- City of Huntsville’s mapping software

### **Possible partners in this work:**

- Finance industry
- YMCA
- Churches
- Library
- Boys & Girls Clubs (can help to organize actions working with underserved individuals)
- Housing Authority
- Healthcare industry
- Homeless support organizations
- Educational institutions
- Huntsville Career Center
- Senior Center
- UAH Lifelong Learning
- Learning Quest
- K-Tech
- Chamber of Commerce
- North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce
- Firefighters
- Students

### **Who has access?**

- Huntsville City Schools' students
- Madison City Schools and Madison County Schools – resources within the schools
- Colleges/universities
- Military/DoD community
- Professionals
- Business community
- Library patrons (who have transportation for access)
- Restaurants/businesses who offer WiFi
- Community partners who offer WiFi
- Big Spring (public access)
- Jails/prisons
- Those who live in the city and have easier access to resources
- Those with financial means
- Youth (training needed on intellectual property rights)
- Anyone with a smart phone

## Where are the gaps? Who is being left out?

- Lower income members of our community
- Senior adults/elderly
- Homeless
- Disabled
- Adult learners
- English language learners/new Americans
- Foster children
- Students who do not attend public schools
- Formerly-incarcerated
- Those who are not “digital natives”
- Untrained workforce
- “Undecided” high school graduates
- Those without knowledge about technology or who fear it (need for education related to technology such as phishing, cyber security, and ability to understand credible information)/unaware users
- Those without access or convenient access
  - Transportation
  - Conflicting obligations
- Support/mentors for younger children

## Where are other factors to be considered?

- Communication – letting people know about available resources
- How do we get resources to those who need them (seniors, grandparents raising kids)
- Knowledge of and connection to resources – for advancement gap between right education and industry (education is not keeping up with industry)
- Someone to help others navigate
- Education for coding/technology fields (work force development issue)
- Becoming a “Connected City”

## Community Priorities for Digital Inclusion

- **1<sup>st</sup> priority - Education (67 votes)**
  - Access to information/research
  - Financial management/literacy
- **2<sup>nd</sup> priority - Job training (49 votes)**
  - Getting a job
  - Workforce development
  - Improving job skills
  - Gaining certifications/credentials
- **3<sup>rd</sup> priority - Economic development (39 votes)**
  - Wealth creation
  - Shopping
  - Creating jobs
  - Infrastructure
  - Attracting new business
- **4<sup>th</sup> priority - Social connection – (28 votes)**
  - Gateway to other priorities
  - Social media
  - Personal connections within the community
  - LinkedIn professional networking opportunities
  - Gaming
  - Part of a broader community/community health
- **5<sup>th</sup> priority - Health care (12 votes)**
  - Tele-medicine
  - Health-related information
  - Information about health care providers
  - Access to care