

Digital Equity, Deeper Learning and the Cyberlearning Community:

Making Deeper Learning a Focal Point In Digital Equity Initiatives



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A Brief History of Digital Equity

- [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#): outgrowth of CTCNet
- [Comcast Internet Essentials](#): first digital equity resource at national scale
- [ConnectED](#): White House partnership with private sector
- [Broadband Opportunity Council](#): 27 federal agencies in 2015 identifying steps they can take to narrow the digital divide
- [ConnectHome](#): HUD's response to White House mandate
- [Community reinvestment act](#) expected to open up funding for digital equity grants, loans and equity investments

Meanwhile, the Digital Divide's *Costs* Grow

- In digital age, can't find out about, apply for, or qualify for living wage jobs without digital access and skills
- Computerized school testing deepens disadvantage for low-income students who have fewer or no opportunities to develop keyboarding and digital literacy skills at home

The Good News...

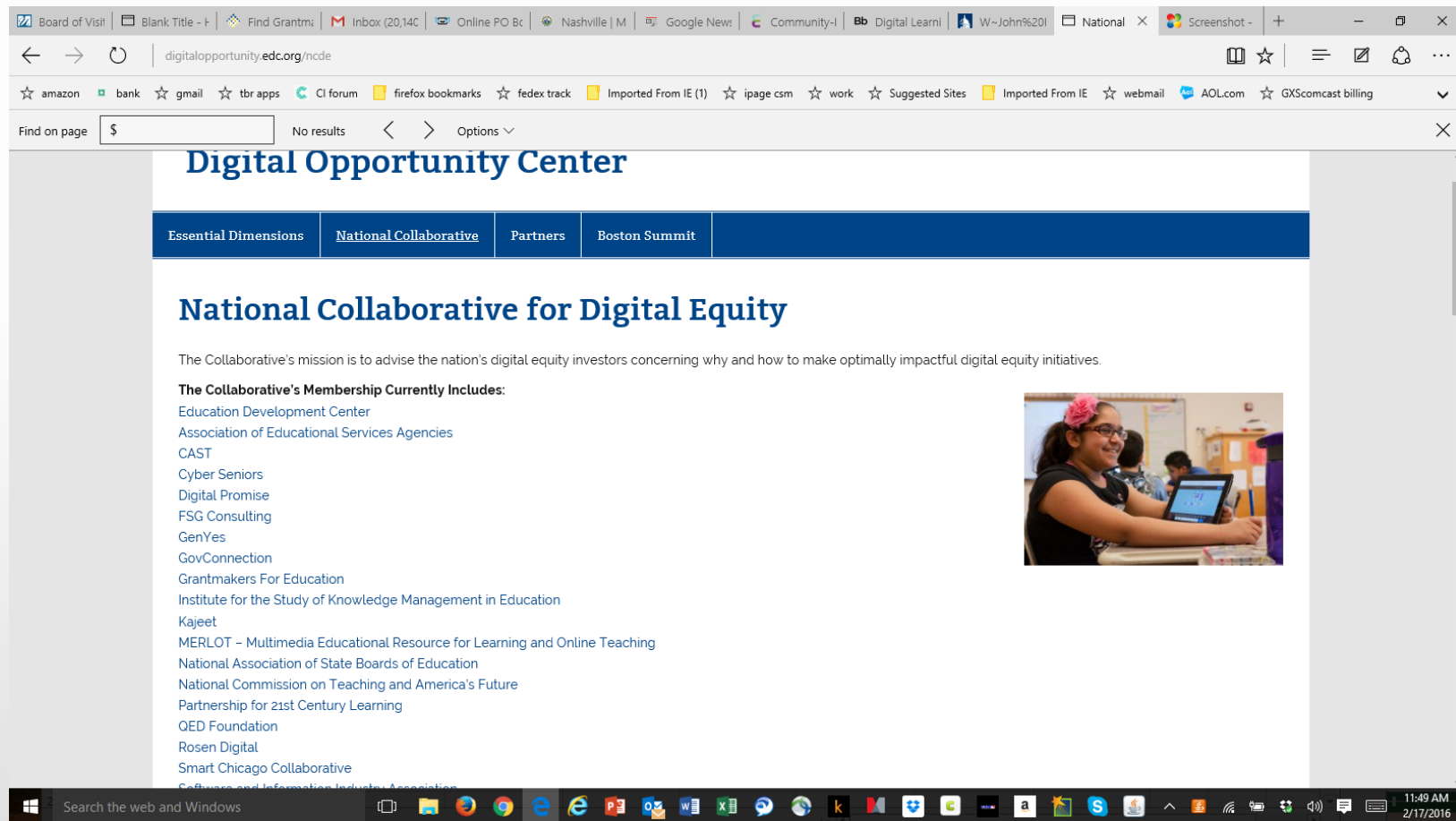
- Funding for digital equity investments about to grow significantly – e.g., for:
 - Affordable broadband
 - Low-cost hardware
 - Some tech support
 - Computer labs w/hands on training in low-income housing...

The Bad News...

- Public and private sector digital equity investors poised to recreate mistakes of past 25 years of K12 ed tech integration
- No reason to think that bank CRA officers, foundations and social impact investors any more likely than ed tech integrators in K12 and colleges of education to design effective investments
- For this reason, several partners formed the [National Collaborative for Digital Equity](#) to convey with unified, authoritative voice “guiding principles for effective digital equity investment”

Break for questions, reflections...

National Collaborative for Digital Equity



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for the Digital Opportunity Center. The browser's address bar shows the URL digitalopportunity.edc.org/mcde. The page features a navigation menu with the following items: Essential Dimensions, National Collaborative (highlighted), Partners, and Boston Summit. The main heading is "National Collaborative for Digital Equity". Below the heading, a paragraph states: "The Collaborative's mission is to advise the nation's digital equity investors concerning why and how to make optimally impactful digital equity initiatives." A section titled "The Collaborative's Membership Currently Includes:" lists the following organizations: Education Development Center, Association of Educational Services Agencies, CAST, Cyber Seniors, Digital Promise, FSG Consulting, GenYes, GovConnection, Grantmakers For Education, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education, Kajet, MERLOT - Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, Partnership for 21st Century Learning, QED Foundation, Rosen Digital, and Smart Chicago Collaborative. To the right of the text is a photograph of a young girl with a pink flower in her hair, smiling and using a tablet computer in a classroom setting. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 11:49 AM on 2/17/2016.

Guiding Principles

Digital equity investments must be:

- Systemic
- Community-based
- Research-based
- Using collective impact
- Culturally responsive
- Building capacity for the community's digital literacy educators
- Employing continuous improvement
- Fostering not only digital equity but also key social and economic outcomes, especially living wage career access
- Focused on “Deeper Learning”

Implications for Cyberlearning Community?

CL Community Members are expert in tech strategies that foster truly deeper learning

Would be powerful if CL community formed short-term working group to plan working sessions at June 2016 conference, exploring

Might CL community members want to form longer term working group to

- (a) Provide guidance to nation's digital equity leaders re best practices to foster truly deeper learning, and/or
- (b) Educate fellow members re digital equity challenges and resources they could address and leverage to heighten their impacts on STEM learning results for the nation's low-income learners



Presented by

Robert T. McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Director, Leadership for Learning Innovation
Education Development Center
43 Foundry Avenue
Waltham, MA USA 02453
o. 1.617.618.2725
c. 1.802.249.1159
rmclaughlin@edc.org