**EDA Grant Announcement Press Release**

The National Digital Equity Center, a program of the Axiom Education & Training Center, is honored to receive grant funds from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. The Maine Digital Inclusion Initiative is a project that promotes and advocates for digital inclusion and digital equity. This is a three-year program with a goal of closing the digital divide across the state of Maine.

Other funders include the John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, The Betterment Fund, Bangor Savings Bank, Machias Savings Bank, Maine Technology Institute, Island Institute and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Funds will be used to hire digital literacy instructors and provide digital literacy classes statewide.

Our partners on the project are the Maine State Library and local libraries across the state, and the University of Maine and its campuses. These are locations that classes will be held, as well as other community locations. Other collaborators are adult education programs, older adult organizations, economic development agencies and multiple state agencies.

The National Digital Equity Center has been working on this initiative for the past year with the assistance of AmeriCorps Volunteers, which created a foundation to continue this very important work for the next three years.

For more information, email at: [info@digitalequitycenter.org](mailto:info@digitalequitycenter.org), or call 207-259-5010. More information can be found on our website at: [www.digitalequitycenter.org](http://www.digitalequitycenter.org).

If anyone is interested in taking classes, here’s a link to the Class Interest Survey: <https://survey.digitalequitycenter.org>

Quote from Susan Corbett, Director, National Digital Equity Center (NDEC):

“With this support from the U.S Department of Commerce, the National Digital Equity Center will take a significant step closer to closing the digital divide in Maine, helping strengthen the future of Maine’s economy. The Maine Digital Inclusion Initiative is the first full statewide digital inclusion program in the United States, and we are honored to lead the way in this very important economic development effort.”