**National Digital Equity Symposium: Uniting to Close the Digital Divide**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Monday, June 26th, 2017 Menger Hotel, San Antonio Noon – 6 pm**

To register (it’s free and includes lunch and materials) click [here](http://ndes.eventzilla.net)

The U.S. is falling behind other nations in addressing the digital divide. One in four families lack a device and broadband, depriving them of significant educational and economic opportunities.

Join us at this intensive briefing and planning event as we work together to tap Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and other unprecedented funding sources to close the digital divide through local systemic digital equity partnerships.

Outcomes -- Participants will:

* Be briefed on why and how to tap CRA funds to close the digital divide for low-income learners
* Learn about essential dimensions of a local *systemic* approach to digital equity
* Explore public, private and nonprofit resources available to assist communities to address each dimension (broadband, hardware, multilingual tech support, OER, Deep Web content, librarian support for cybersafety and digital literacy, etc.)
* Develop plans to collaborate in mobilizing and supporting low-income communities nationwide

Noon – 12:45 p.m. Lunch, welcome, acknowledgements and introductions

12:45 – 1:00 p.m. Overview: symposium goals: Dr. Paul Resta, Co-Chair, National Collaborative for Digital Equity

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Context for today’s discussion and planning: Dr. Robert McLaughlin, Co-Chair, National Collaborative for Digital Equity

* Community Reinvestment Act policy guidance in August 2016
* First statewide mobilization of school/bank/community partnership teams to tap CRA funds for local systemic digital equity
* Resources available to support replication/scale of mobilization efforts

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Panel: Essential Dimensions of Local Systemic Digital Equity

2:00 – 2:10 p.m. Panel Q & A (refreshments available)

2:10 – 2:40 p.m. Panel: School boards, superintendents and banking leaders: guiding principles for forming mutually rewarding partnerships

2:40 – 2:50 p.m. Panel Q & A

2:50 – 3:20 p.m. Panel: Leadership representatives from national organizations in educator preparation: Implications of digital equity challenges and initiatives for educator preparation

3:20 – 3:40 p.m. Roundtable discussion on implications of digital equity challenges and initiatives for educator preparation programs and school system leaders

3:40 – 4:00 p.m. Panel Q & A

4:00 – 4:20 p.m. Roundtable discussion on potential strategies for statewide, regional and national collaboration

4:20 – 4:40 p.m. Table report outs and plenary discussion

4:40 – 5:00 p.m. Panel: Leadership representatives from ISTE, SETDA, NCDE and NSBA respond to participant recommendations concerning next steps for national collaboration

5:00 – 5:10 p.m. Next Steps and Wrap-Up

5:10 – 6:00 p.m. Showcase and Networking Reception