CALIFORNIA CONNECTS

California Connects offers a multi-pronged approach to increasing digital literacy and broadband access for under-served communities where computer and Internet access is still a challenge. Funded by a $10.9 million Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, California Connects provides intensive outreach and hands-on training to educate individuals who do not have access to Internet technology. Over 18,000 Californians have received digital literacy training through this program.

Community Trainers

California Connects trains Community College students to conduct in-person digital literacy training for economically disadvantaged users throughout the state. In partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, California Connects equips Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) students with a laptop computer, Microsoft certification, and digital literacy training to serve as Community Trainers for their families and other community members.

In partnership with the Great Valley Center, these Community Trainers conduct digital literacy training for Central Valley residents who currently do not have access to broadband technology. To date, California Connects has trained over 5,800 MESA students to provide digital literacy training for their families and communities.

Digital Literacy Tools

California Connects has partnered with American River College to develop open-access, online digital literacy tools that can be used anytime, anywhere—in libraries, public computing centers, homes, schools, colleges, and places of business. Community Trainers use these tools to teach new broadband users how to use the Internet for essential tasks such as securing gainful employment, exploring higher education opportunities, accessing health and finance resources, utilizing social networks, and advancing their general quality of life.

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Highlights

- Trained 5,800 MESA students at 35 Community Colleges
- 18 Central Valley counties served
- Over 70,000 hours of training provided in the program's first year
- 18,000 Californians have received digital literacy training
- Training has been provided in over 35 languages

Partner Organizations

- Adobe
- American River College
- AT&T
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- Certiport
- CollegeBuys
- Great Valley Center
- Hewlett Packard
- Insight
- Microsoft

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. ***For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.***