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# Austin Free-Net's Mission ...



- We exist to provide technology training and access to the community, fostering skills that enable people to succeed in the digital age.

# ... Austin Free-Net's Vision

A world  
without  
digital  
barriers



# **THE NEED**

## **The Reality of the Digital Divide**

- 1 in 5 American adults do not use the Internet
- 80% of Fortune 500 companies require online job applications

# WHO WE SERVE

- 73% report earning less than \$15,000 per year
- 58% are unemployed
- 42% are African-American
- 24% are Hispanic/Latino
- 30% are White
- 84% of our clients are working age (between 17 and 62)

WHO WE SERVE

# **Community Benefits**

- 3 hours Public Access
- Equipment & Resources
- 33,000 Training Hours
- Innovative training methodology

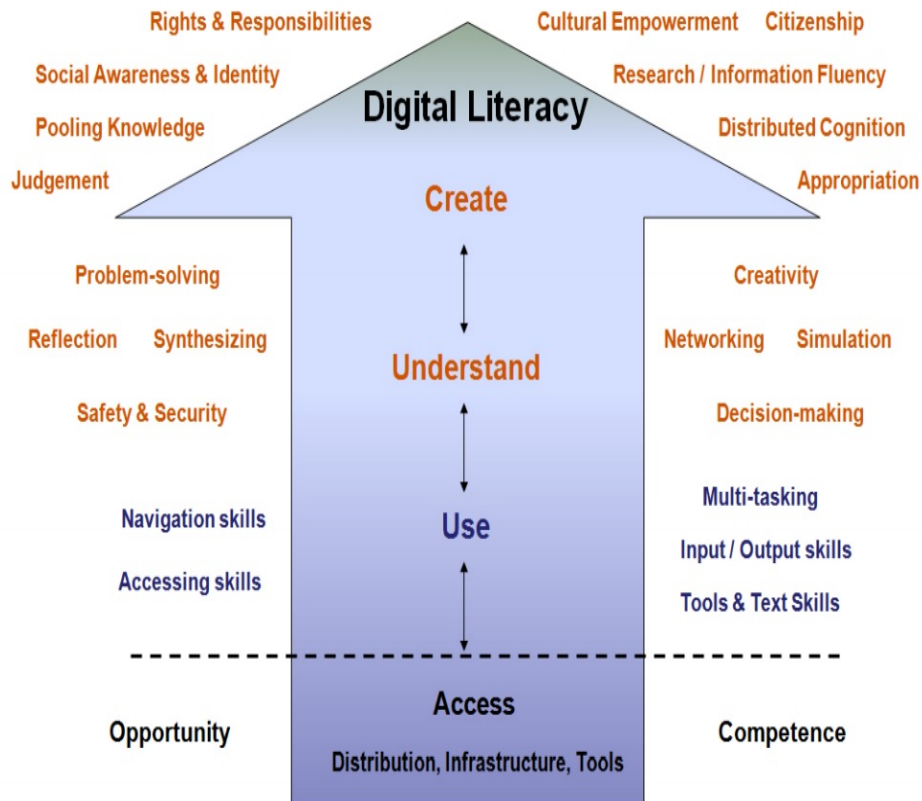


# Learning Model

ICT INNOVATION  
(in ICT / with ICT)

CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL ACTION

CRITICAL/CREATIVE THINKING



**CREATE** – Create your own resume.

**UNDERSTAND** – Describe the different elements of a typical resume in Microsoft Word.

**USE** – Create and modify a Microsoft word document.

# What We Learned:

- Linear classes are difficult with transient and low-income people
- Fear of classes is a barrier to entry into our labs
- Students are never at the same level
- Traditional teaching methods don't work
- Most people who don't know how to use a computer don't want to learn it.



# How We're Different

- Non-traditional education techniques
- Focus on removal of barriers



# Our Impact

- \* **Envisioning a \$40 Million in economic Impact**
- 50% of clients come to acquire necessary job skills and to look for work
- 59% of clients in the Fast Jobs program found employment in 6 weeks!
- 113 parents at six AISD Title I Schools were trained on how to use the online Parent Cloud portal to get children's grades and connect with other educational resources to enhance their academic development

# The New Landscape

Internet Provider-  
GOOGLE

Nonprofit  
Service  
Agencies

Community  
Members

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Search for  
Jobs

Office  
Skills

Online  
Accounts

Adult  
Education

Apply for  
Benefits

# Digital Inclusion Fellowship

- Partnership with NTEN and Google
- Cohort of 16 Fellows Nationwide
- July 2015 – June 2016
- 3 Project Areas



# Digital Inclusion Fellowship

1. Create a Train the Trainer program.
2. Create a program dashboard that shares performance measures.
3. Develop three to four public broadband adoption and awareness .



# Our Future

- Co-lead with COA-TARA Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA)
- Complete the strategic plan roadmap provided by IBM consultants for success
- Leverage public & private partnerships to enhance service delivery
- Strengthen Brand
- Enhance volunteer program

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Results-driven  
Innovative  
Bilingual  
Flexible  
Walk-in  
Connecting  
Individualized  
Accessible  
Customizable  
Scalable  
Crucial  
Informal  
Empowering  
Supportive  
Educational  
Free  
Welcoming  
Constructivist  
Motivational  
Trackable  
Relevant





**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**