Farewell, and Good Luck,
John Ferguson

Editor’s Note: Although John is now considered a Launched Fellow, he will always be part of the TPF family. Learn more about TPF Beyond.

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There are few things in this world more powerful than sharing lessons learned. When we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and embrace our personal growth, we can inspire others to undertake their own learning journeys.

John A. Ferguson, 2020/2021 TPF Fellow

Through a collaboration with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the Fellows Program provides graduates of the world’s first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy with a year-long career-building opportunity at The Patterson Foundation. John Ferguson was just a few months into his new role as a TPF Fellow when the Digital Access for All initiative began. Covid-19 was not well understood at the time, but it was immediately impacting the people, organizations, and communities the foundation serves.

John never hesitated as he dove into being the DA4A project manager and worked tirelessly connecting regionally

From Ideas to Action: The Evolution of Digital Access for All

In June 2020, TPF launched the Digital Access for All initiative to explore the many facets of digital access given the rapid transition from in-person interactions to online due to the pandemic in March 2020.

As we enter 2022, John Ferguson looks back at the initiative’s evolution.

From Ideas to Action

DA4A Jumps into Action for
John immersed himself in true TPF excellence during his fellowship. For example, he collaborated on multiple special projects to provide strategic value and further innovation across different initiatives. In a recent Zoom session with TPF CEO Debra Jacobs and the two 2021/22 fellows, Connor LaGrange and Michael Zimmerman...

Our Public Libraries Offer Digital Services, from Connectivity to Devices to Digital Skills

To use the internet in a meaningful way, DA4A discovered that connectivity, devices, and skills/support are essential elements. Public libraries in our four-county region are among the many organizations contributing to efforts to address digital access needs to connect people in ways that foster inclusion and well-being. Libraries in Charlotte County, DeSoto County, Manatee County, and Sarasota County provide various opportunities to participate in our increasingly digital world. For example, in many locations, patrons can do the following:

- Use a computer, iPad, tablet, or laptop within the library
- Check out devices like hotspots and laptops
- Access the internet and printing

As the DA4A team embarks on 2022, we are excited about the planned activities and the possibilities!

In the first quarter, we are rebooting the Digital Access Services Matrix survey. To expedite this process, DA4A has asked Mike Kennedy to join the team and assist in expanding the reach and response for the matrix. If you are interested in learning more or having your organization added to it, please contact Mike at mikekennedytpf@gmail.com.

Legislation Awareness:

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Replaces The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB)

DA4A is working to help build awareness about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB). ACP is a long-term benefit that will help to lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households struggling to afford internet service.

Banks Still Fund Digital Inclusion, Get Rated

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), one of three federal agencies which regulate various financial institutions, affirmed that it would continue to recognize certain digital inclusion activities in its final rule on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The 1977 law was passed to combat redlining, the discriminatory practice of denying credit to otherwise credit-worthy residents based on the
services
- Access digital resources on various topics such as arts and humanities, grants, health and wellness, job preparation, business, and more
- Receive tech support to better understand and use smartphones, tablets, laptops, or software such as Microsoft Word.

We encourage you to use your local public library to the fullest and make the best use of the free or low-cost resources that they provide!

Under the CRA, banks must consider the credit needs of the low-moderate income neighborhoods where they have a presence. The OCC assigns ratings to banks based on their lending and investment activities. To find the specific digital inclusion activities banks can fund, click here and keyword search “computers,” “internet,” “broadband,” and “training” within the document.

Questions? Email Maribel Martinez.

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**Remake Learning Days** are coming to Florida’s Suncoast
April 29 - May 8 2022

Are you ready for the world's largest multi-venue open house for hands-on learning?

Remake Learning Days is celebration of innovative hands-on learning experiences for youth and their families to develop their sense of wonder, creativity, perseverance, and curiosity.

Connecting learning across all of the places we live, work, and play, including:
- libraries
- parks
- museums
- clubs
- community centers
- centers of faith
- schools at home and online

Event hosts and partners are currently planning this exciting 10-day festival with the support of The Patterson Foundation.

The time for you to be involved
IS NOW!!

For more information on how you can be involved

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SUNCOAST  
The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

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THE PATTISON  
FOUNDATION
Do you have a resource or idea to share with the community? Is there a national, regional, or local effort you’d like us to know about or feature in future publications? Contact DA4A at digitalaccess@thepattersonfoundation.org to be considered.

@ThePattersonFdn
#DigitalAccessforAll