



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 28, 2009

Contact: Cobi Jackson  
[cjackson@one-economy.com](mailto:cjackson@one-economy.com) / 503.740.8143

## **Regional Leaders Plan for Economic Development at First Pacific Northwest Digital Inclusion Summit**

**Mayor Greg Nickels Declares January 28 “Digital Inclusion Day”  
and Announces New Technology Partnership with One Economy**

SEATTLE -- One Economy, a global nonprofit that uses innovative approaches to deliver the power of technology and information to low-income people, in partnership with the City of Seattle and Communities Connect Network (CCN), today hosted the first Pacific Northwest Digital Inclusion Summit in order to explore ways Seattle can use technology to create jobs and help more people join the economic mainstream.

The day-long summit included workshops on engaging the nation's youth in technology, technology policies on the local, state and national levels, and empowering communities to make digital inclusion a top priority for legislators and policy-makers.

“In these difficult economic times, the digital inclusion programs proposed here today are essential to helping struggling families find jobs and stay in control of their finances,” said Rey Ramsey, CEO of One Economy and the summit's keynote speaker, “but we are also looking to the future. These policies will ensure that Seattle's youth enter the workforce ready to compete and succeed.”

At the event, Mayor Greg Nickels declared January 28 “Digital Inclusion Day” in Seattle and announced Seattle's new membership in the *Bring IT Home America* campaign. This two-year campaign, created by One Economy, is a member-supported effort that marshals the resources of government, business, and the nonprofit sector around a powerful goal: extending the promise of innovative technology to expand opportunities to those who need them most. By the end of the campaign, One Economy and campaign members will have engaged 5,000 youth to provide technology training in their neighborhoods, brought broadband into the homes of half a million Americans, and reached millions more with the next generation of public-purpose media, the Public Internet Channel.

"An inclusive society depends upon all people having access to gaining the technical capacity and skills to participate within the digital world in a meaningful way," said Nickels. "Seattle has long been a leader in fostering this development and remains committed to working with industry, educators and non-profits on closing the digital divide."

This new effort builds on the City of Seattle's existing digital inclusion work to ensure that all residents have the information technology training and access needed to ensure civic and cultural participation, employment and lifelong learning. These include public computers available for use at city facilities, technology matching fund grants, computer training labs at community centers, free Internet for non-profits, public wi-fi, and multilingual educational materials. In 2005, One Economy and the City of Seattle helped found the Communities Connect Network to further best practices and strategic investment in Washington State. See [www.seattle.gov/tech](http://www.seattle.gov/tech) and [www.communitiesconnect.org](http://www.communitiesconnect.org)

###

**About One Economy**



One Economy Corporation is a global nonprofit organization that uses innovative approaches to deliver the power of technology and information to low-income people. More than 15 million people have used One Economy's online tools and resources to build better lives. Learn more at [www.one-economy.com](http://www.one-economy.com).