Saturday, November 2, 2019 – 1:00-2:30 PM
Investing in Your Future with Digital Networking

Presented by
Lauralyn Randles, Doctoral Candidate, COMS, TVI,
Morris, Il
lauralynbogart@gmail.com

Molly Pasley, Ed.D., COMS, TVI,
Instructor/Service Provider for Individuals with Visual Impairments, Out of Sight Accessibility, Peoria, Il
molyclesen@gmail.com

Developed for 2019 SWOMA Conference
Slide 1: Investing in Your Future with Digital Networking
Dr. Molly Pasley, COMS & TVI
Lauralyn Randles, COMS & TVI

Slide 2: Agenda
Digital Networking
- What?
- Why?
- Who?
- How?
- Where? Different platforms and their accessibility
- When? Appropriate for students/clients, professionals, and families

Slide 3: What is Digital Networking?
Internet-based tools that allow an individual to extend his/her reach globally to build meaningful relationships and facilitate professional growth

Slide 4: Why is Digital Networking Important?
We have approximately 212 TVI and 140 O&M/COMS working and retired across 57,915 square miles of Illinois.
That is...
- 1 TVI for 273.18 square miles
- 1 O&M/COMS for 413.68 square miles
Slide 5: Who Benefits From Digital Networking?
- Students and clients (as individuals and as a result of professional networks)
- Professionals
- Families

Slide 6: How Do We Engage in a Digital Network?
Professionalism is a MUST
- Protect client privacy
- What is posted on the Internet STAYS on the Internet

Slide 7: Where Can You Access the Digital Network?
Active Forms of Networking
- Email/texting
- Facebook
- Plethora of VI/O&M/Parent groups (gain perspective)
- Instagram
- Get ideas for programs/instructional materials
- Snapchat
- Twitter
- Vorail (mainly used by adults with VI)
- LinkedIn
- Google Hangouts/Skype/video conferencing
Slide 8: Where Can You Access the Digital Network? (cont.)

Passive Forms of Networking

- YouTube Channels
- Accessible to students through YouDescribe
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn
- Listservs
- Newsletters for organizations (CICBVI/Second Sense)

Slide 9: Accessibility

Be a responsible “post-er”!

- Content is only as accessible as the source of said content
  - Alt Text
  - High Contrast
  - Photo Captions

Slide 10: Facebook Groups

- DVIDB, NFB, AER, AFB, APH, Hadley, and so many more!
- Parents of the Blind & Visually Impaired Children
- Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- iPhone and iPad apps for the blind and visually impaired
- Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired/O&M Specialists
- National Organization of Parents of Blind Children
- Groups for Toys, Dating, Diagnosis Specific, Traveling, Tech, Homeschooling, Support
Slide 11: Instagram
- Molly Burke Official
- American Printing House (for new products)
- National Braille Press (for new products)
- EyeTeachTactile (teacher materials)
- Kassy Maloney (good vibes and COMS PD)

Slide 12: Podcasts and Reddit
- Podcasts
  - Cool Blind Tech
  - Blind Access Journal
  - Life After Blindness
  - Sense of Texas (TSBVI)
- Reddit
  - Forums

Slide 13: YouTube Channels
- Molly Burke
- The Tommy Edison Experience (Not always for children)
- The Blind Life
- The Blind Skateboarder
- Being Blind Works
- Braille Skateboarder
- Blind Grilling
Slide 14: When is it Appropriate to Begin Engaging Students/Clients?

- Appropriate tech skills
- Age-appropriate with adult supervision (when necessary)
- Expressing desire for community, building relationships with others with VI

Slide 15: Modeling for Families and Students/Clients

- Pointing out where you find the resources
- Talk aloud through what online resources or pages you are using
- Encourage them to reach out to support groups through social media for questions
- Encourage digital network savvy parents and students/clients to reach out to others

Slide 16: Things to Consider

- Parent permission
- Internet safety/security
- Different networking sites for different purposes
- Website access limitations while at school; likely will network at home
- Can be on social media without BEING on social media.
- Join closed groups, etc.
- Teaching to control how much they share about themselves on the internet so they might minimize digital footprint
Slide 17: Your Turn!
What platforms or groups do you find you useful?
What about your students/clients?
Any others for family members?

Slide 18
Lauralyn Randles, COMS & TVI
lauralynbogart@gmail.com
Dr. Molly Pasley, COMS & TVI
mollyclesen@gmail.com
Texas School for the Blind & Visually
Outreach Program

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