2020 Texas Focus: Self-Determination
Friday, February 28th, 2020
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
SEE Differently

Presented by
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Developed for
Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs
Slide 1: Set Extraordinary Expectations
Kristin Smedley

*Figure 1* Youth baseball team standing in front of a scoreboard that shows the final score 9-6. Kids are holding trophies. Title says “Set Extraordinary Expectations” Kristin Smedley

Slide 2:

*Figure 2* Kristin and her three children smiling on a beach. All are wearing Martha’s Vineyard shirts.

Slide 3:

*Figure 3* Michael stand up paddle boarding on the ocean in Hawaii. Large rocks in the background
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**Slide 4:**

Figure 4 Michael on skis with ski poles in hand

**Slide 5:**

Figure 5 Mitchell surfing. Surf instructor standing in the background.

**Slide 6:**

Figure 6 Mitchell flying an Elsa (Frozen) kite on the beach. He has a huge smile on his face.
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**Slide 7:**

> Figure 7 Karissa standing in front of a YMS soccer banner wearing a winner's medal and holding a can of Diet Coke.

**Slide 8:**

> Figure 8 Michael doing a back dive off of a diving board into a swimming pool.

**Slide 9:**

> Figure 9 Mitchell riding horseback in a beautiful green field.
Slide 10:
Extraordinary
[\textit{ik-strawr-dn-er-ee, ek-struh-awr-}]
adjective
1. \textbf{beyond what is usual, ordinary, regular, or established:}
   \textit{extraordinary costs.}
2. \textbf{exceptional in character, amount, extent, degree, etc.; noteworthy; remarkable:}
   \textit{extraordinary speed; an extraordinary man.}

\textbf{Dictionary.com}

Slide 11:

\textit{Figure 10 Kristin and her kids standing on a grass field. The boys each have their white canes.}

Slide 12:

\textit{Figure 11 Circle broken in three pieces that are labeled: Perceptions, Expectations, Outcomes.}
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**Slide 13:**
CRB1-LCA retina
Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum

![CRB1-LCA retina](image)

*Figure 12 Picture of a CRB1-LCA retina*

**Slide 14:**

![Michael at age 3, Mitchell 3 months smiling and Michael is holding Mitchell’s hand.](image)

*Figure 13 Michael at age 3, Mitchell 3 months smiling and Michael is holding Mitchell’s hand.*

**Slide 15:**

![3-section circle with just the “Perceptions” portion highlighted.](image)

*Figure 14 3-section circle again with just the “Perceptions” portion highlighted.*
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Slide 16:

![Figure 15 Picture of a sunset on an ocean with 3 people in a canoe.](image)

Slide 17:

21 million Americans are considered blind or visually impaired.


![AFB American Foundation for the Blind](image)

Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

*Figure 16 American Foundation for the Blind logo.*

Slide 18:

Blindness Statistics

**Number living below the poverty line: 1,124,200 (30.5%)**

**High school diploma or a GED: 1,163,900 (31.5%)**

**Bachelor's degree or higher: 531,000 (14.4%)**

*The annual earnings and poverty status of non-institutionalized persons aged 21-64 years with a visual disability in the United States in 2014.*

**The number of non-institutionalized, male or female, ages 21-64, all races, regardless of ethnicity, in the United States reported to have a visual disability in 2014. These numbers refer to the highest level of education attained by a given individual.*

[https://nfb.org/blindness-statistics](https://nfb.org/blindness-statistics)
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Slide 19:

Figure 17 Michael on the first day of Kindergarten standing at our home mailbox. His bus tag is blowing in the breeze.

Slide 20:

Figure 18 3-section circle with only the portion that says “Expectations” highlighted.

Slide 21:

Extraordinary

[ɪk-ˈstrɔːr-ən-ɪ, ɛk-struhr-ən-

adjective

1. beyond what is usual, ordinary, regular, or established: extraordinary costs.

2. exceptional in character, amount, extent, degree, etc.; noteworthy; remarkable: extraordinary speed; an extraordinary man.

Dictionary.com
Slide 22:
Part One

Figure 19 The word “ignite”.

Slide 23:

Figure 20 Karissa wearing a USA headband getting a book signed by Carly Lloyd.

Slide 24:

Figure 21 Weihenmayer at the top of a mountain, above the clouds.
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**Slide 25:**

*Figure 22 Michael with Tom Wlodkowskie.*

*Figure 23 Kathy Nimmer teaching.*

*Figure 24 Michael with Chris Downey.*

**Slide 26:**

Part Two

*Figure 25 The word "Tools".*
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**Slide 27:**

![Picture of a Perkins Brailler](image_url)

*Figure 26 Picture of a Perkins Brailler.*

![Picture of an Apex Braillenote](image_url)

*Figure 27 Picture of an Apex Braillenote.*

![Picture of a white cane](image_url)

*Figure 28 Picture of a white cane.*

**Slide 28:**

![Michael crossing the finish line in a track race](image_url)

*Figure 29 Michael crossing the finish line in a track race. Text: Believe. Achieve. Mike Smedley @ Camp Abilities: The power of a dream.*
Slide 29:
Part Three

Figure 30 The word "Tribe".

Slide 30:

Figure 31 Michael and two friends, Kay and Devon, standing on a stadium track.

Slide 31:

Figure 32 Mitchell and two friends, Kayleigh and Julia, standing in front of the Braille Challenge banner.
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Slide 32:

![Figure 33 3-part circle with only the section that says “Outcomes” highlighted.](image)

Slide 33:

![Figure 34 Michael and three other students holding certificates as they stand behind the National Honor Society banner.](image)
Figure 34: Michael and 17 friends pose for a prom picture.

Figure 35 Michael and 17 friends pose for a prom picture.

Figure 36 Michael and his date holding the “promposal” board that says “I’d be touched if you’d go with me to” and PROM is spelled out in large Braille dots made of chocolate chip cookies.

Figure 37 Mitch running on a stadium track in 2nd place in the race. Print reads: Determination #ThatsMyMitchell.
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Slide 36:

![Figure 38](image)

*Figure 38* Mitchell at the Team USA Colorado Springs facility, standing at the entrance wall with life size letters that spell out TEAM USA.

Slide 37:

![Figure 39](image)

*Figure 39* Baseball team wearing orange jerseys and holding trophies.

![Figure 40](image)

*Figure 40* Baseball team wearing orange jerseys, holding trophies and cheering.
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Slide 38:

Figure 41 Split screen of Michael’s 1st day of Kindergarten picture and Michael on high school graduation day in his cap and gown at the mailbox.

Slide 39:

Figure 42 Picture of the book Thriving Blind.

Slide 40:

Figure 43 The sunset picture again of the family in the canoe on the ocean.
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**Slide 41:**

![Vancouver Harbor](image1.jpg)

*Figure 44 The Vancouver Harbor packed with beautiful boats and trees and a mountain in the background.*

**Slide 42:**

![Michael at graduation](image2.jpg)

*Figure 45 Michael at his high school graduation podium. Adults are on the stage looking at him.*
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