

Perspectives On Social Networking

Providing Information For Youth
To Use, Everyday

An Overview

- About Me
- About MCIL
- Making Connections with Youth
- Expanding in New Directions
- Closing Thoughts



Working with people with disabilities
in fulfilling their desire to lead
productive self-determined lives.

MCIL Facts

- Advocacy-based, information center
- Any disability, any age
- Minimal Paper Pushing
- Consumer control = IL Philosophy
- All information is available @
www.mcil-mn.org
- No housing on-site... but much more

Core Services

- Information, Referral & Assistance
- Individual & Systems Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills
- Peer Mentor Program

Additional Services

- Transition Program
- Ramp Program
- Personal Assistant Services
- Relocation Services
- Support Groups
- Technology Lab
- Community Workshops

Youth Transition Program

- Information & Referral
- IEP Assistance
- Individual Student Services—ILP 1:1
- Technology & Transition Training
- Online Discussion Forum

Social Networking Investigated

- What can we offer?
- What do we know?
- Who will young people listen to?
 - How can community be built?
- How can we get them to be active?

Capturing Youth Interest

- What do you do for fun?
- Who is there with you?
- How do you participate within your community?
- What are your goals in the next few years?
- What are steps you are taking now to complete those goals?

Events Geared toward Youth

- Opening our doors
- People are aware of what we offer
- Getting the people there consistently
- Names Matter

What About Peer Mentoring

- Mentors share
 - time, skills, experience, knowledge and resources with a mentee who wishes to gain skills, info or learn techniques to navigate barriers in his/her life in order to live more independently.
 - A “team” is created when mentor's skills match a mentee’s goal (s).
 - The two individuals work together to accomplish the mentee’s specific goals.
- What does a team work on?
- personal growth/self help
 - social recreation
 - education training/technology
 - transportation/mobility
 - finances/benefits
 - communication/social skills
 - consumer/legal rights
 - daily living/housing
 - employment
 - health care/nutrition

Transition Focused Outreach

- Taking Information To Them
- Off-site Advocacy Training
 - Online Forum Presentation, Disability Disclosure, What is Transition, Using Your IEP, College Bound Decisions, Breaking Down Self-Advocacy, Using Soft Skills, etc.
 - Tell Us and We Can Create A Presentation Your Need

The Web Based Forum

- A web based place where people can come to talk about transition related issues
- Access to resources and questions in an informative attempt to solve problems and influence people
- Getting people involved in their education, and their community, and their lives.

Virtual IL Services

- IL philosophy remains
- More accessible approach
- Allows consumers to gather info & “act” on their own
- Practiced in Arizona @ CyberCil

Initial Forum Ideas

- What is Transition?
- How do I get started?
- What's the timeline?
- What are my big issues in transition?
- Does transition take place at different times for different people?
- How many role models do I have that have been through transition?
- Are the new things in transition that I should know about?

Forum Activity Today

- 92 Topics with 380 Postings!
- Topics contain polls, video links and amazing dialogue!
- A commitment to this has shown people helping other people!
- Overall Website User numbers equal 350!

Demonstration

- Getting there: www.mcil-mn.org
- Click on the FORUM tab
- Click on the Categories tab
- Browse what you are interested in
- Register yourself!

Top 5 Posts to Date:

1. Finding Employment: 2966 Views
2. Recreation and Leisure: 2943 Views
3. Disability Awareness: 2416 Views
4. Talking About Relationships: 1612 Views
5. Barriers and Strategies to Self-Advocacy: 1491 Views

Posts On The Rise

- What is a Mentor?: 1070 Views
- Social Website Issues: 597 Views
- Disability In Popular Culture: 1199 Views
- Impact of Bullying Today: 777 Views

Other Online Tools

- Virtual IL Services - www.cybercil.com/
- ILRU - <http://ilru.org/>
- NYLN - www.nyln.org/
- With-tv - www.withtv.typepad.com/
- C3 - www.c3online.org/
- Youtube - www.youtube.com

Where Are We Going?

- Video Capability?
- Better Ways to Track Usage
- More Presentations on How to Use It around the State and Metro!
- Collaborating with other CILS to increase the flow of information!

Closing Thoughts

- Make a connection with them first
- Inquire about them
- Remember they Listen
- Planting Seeds is our role
- Be there when they ask
- Provide useful information

How about from You?

- Questions & Comments....

- Scathing Rebuttal.....

Contact Us...

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