2020 COSB Leadership Institute Agenda

October 6, 2020

Pre-conference Workshop: Astronomy for All
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm EST
This interactive, virtual workshop will provide attendees with several tactile activities to introduce astronomy to BVI students. Furthermore, by attending the workshop, participants can sign up for a long-term professional development series to teach astronomy using 3D printing. COSB is offering this series through an NSF grant we received in partnership with San Jose State University. We have limited capacity for the virtual room and tickets are going fast. You can purchase tickets for this preconference only. We don't want you to miss out on this amazing professional development opportunity.
Sponsored by CVI Connect

CViCONNECT

Pre-conference Workshop: Orientation for All
Facilitated by Paul Olson
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm EST
During this interactive, virtual workshop, facilitators from CyborgNest will discuss and demonstrate how to use a new wearable device for orientation and mobility. The device is called Sentero.

1. Sentero is a wearable device that based on orientation, it constantly connects the wearer to distant people and locations, communicating their direction through patterned vibrations and allowing the user to interact and feel connected without any effort, avoiding feeling lonely and disconnected in the big world.

2. Sentero also allows the wearer to intuitively know all the time which cardinal direction they are facing, where people and places are in relation to themselves even if continents away, extending their sensory reach across the world.

3. Wearers of Sentero also feel each other's heartbeat and sending/receiving haptic emojis, which is a great new way of communicating without the need of a screen or headphones, which leaves the user to experience reality without interfering.

Workshop participants can join a free pilot study to test this product. You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity to learn about the latest advances in O&M technology!

Sponsored by CyborgNest

Virtual Happy Hour and Awards Celebration
Time: 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm EST
We'll play lively games and celebrate the accomplishments of our amazing award winners. You've never attended an awards ceremony like this one!

October 7, 2020

12:00 - 12:20   Opening session
After briefly outlining logistics for the day, we will discuss a new opportunity available to COSB members through an NSF grant we received in partnership with San Jose State University.
Sponsored by HIMS

12:20 - 1:15   Enhancing your dynamic leadership capacity
W. Robert Hair, Superintendent and CEO of Maryland School for the Blind, will lead a discussion on adaptable, dynamic leadership. Participants are invited to share their experiences and expertise as well.
Sponsored by OrCam

Track 1 - Leadership in a Virtual Era
Facilitated by Scott McCallum

1:15 - 2:15   Distance learning best practices for BVI students
This interactive session will cover best practices for virtual instruction from three different vantage points: Amanda Rodda, Math and Computer Science Teacher at WSSB, will give a TVI's perspective and tips for working directly with students. Angel Martyn, Principal of Education at CSB, will examine how principals can support their teachers and students. Sergio Oliva, Associate VP of Programs and Services at Braille Institute, will impart how agencies can work to support BVI students virtually. Participants of this session will also have time to ask questions and add their individual expertise to this rich and lively discussion.
Sponsored by Braille Institute

2:15 - 3:00   Silver linings of the pandemic: what worked, what didn't, and serendipitous strategies that we'll continue
During this session, Emily Coleman, Superintendent at TSBVI, will lead an interactive, living case study. She'll discuss methods she has employed at Texas to navigate the present challenges as well as surprise benefits that have resulted from adapting to the pandemic. Participants of this session will also have time to discuss their own silver linings so that we can collectively identify strategies that we'll continue well beyond COVID.

Track 2 - Leadership in Every Era
Facilitated by Joy Harris

1:15 - 2:15   Competency based education
Competency based education (CBE) is a model that allows students to progress through coursework as they prove mastery over a set of competencies. During this workshop, several COSB leaders will discuss the advantages and challenges of using competencies to supplement or replace the traditional time-based educational mode. Sean McCormick, Washington State School for the Blind, will give a novice's perspective on launching CBE. Jon Harding, Kansas State School for Blind, will discuss the logistics and mechanics of implementing a CBE model. Brian Darcy, Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind, will provide pro tips as an advanced user of the CBE model.
Sponsored by Sunu

2:15 - 3:00   Unlikely education partnerships: Co-lab with facilitated brainstorming
This co-lab experience will help participants to identify and connect with unlikely partners who can help your organization accomplish its mission. Facilitator David Martin, Superintendent of the Tennessee School for the Blind, will start with a living case study of partnerships that have helped him grow TSB. Then workshop participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm and identify existing partnerships as well as potential new partnerships to explore. The output of the co-lab will be a concise list of organizations and action items to help you meet your organizational goals.

3:00 - 3:15   Break

3:15 - 4:30   Business meeting - Donna

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