

Simoné McGautha

Columbia Public Schools Foundation

Progress Report 6

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A. Summary

This past week at my site, I finally completed the training for social networking at Mrs. Read's law office. All of the board members sat around a table and watched as I presented on the projector. First I went to LinkedIn and showed them how to edit personal information, lead people to other sites (like the Columbia Public School's personal site) and how to find other people. This was the easiest to do because a lot of them already had LinkedIn accounts so they were very familiar with the layout of the site.

The next thing I went to was Facebook. I showed them how to update a status, how to add or reject a friend request, change profile pictures, upload pictures and how to make certain things private to some people. Only two people had Facebook already, so it was kind of hard starting from the basics. I never really pay attention to detail when I am on Facebook because it comes so natural to our generation; we practically live on social networking sites. To make things easier for them, I created a powerpoint and handed it out at the beginning of the training, that way they could follow along and take them for references. Overall, I believe the training was successful because they walked away knowing how to at least navigate the site. A lot of questions were asked during the training so I was able to assist them right then and there. I have gotten one email in regards to the privacy settings on Facebook, but it was easy for me to answer through

email. I am really happy that I did the training because it will allow them to reach out to many different people coming from all backgrounds, ages and gain support in areas they had not been receiving support from.

B. Personal and Professional Development

This week, personally, I learned the importance of looking toward the future and staying positive about everything. Gardner states, "At the heart of sustained morale and motivation lie two ingredients that appear somewhat contradictory: on the one hand, positive attitudes toward the future and toward what one can accomplish through one's own intentional acts, and on the other hand, recognition that life is not easy and that nothing is ever finally safe." While reading that, I come to the conclusion that nothing can ever be safe. It can only be hoped for and strived toward. We cannot necessarily know what will happen tomorrow, but we can plan for tomorrow, today. I tied that with the social network training. Although the board could not plan for the sites to be the solution to reaching out to more people, it is important to have a positive attitude toward the future and plan for it today. Making the necessary steps to be successful will always determine your success.

Professionally I learned how important it is to know whom your friends with on these social networking sites. Although my page was clean, when you look at my newsfeed, which allows me to see what my Facebook friends are doing, my friend popped up on the screen smoking. It was extremely embarrassing and it was a reflection of me. Fortunately none of the board members were really paying attention and I was able to hurry up and scroll down the page. I am doing more research now to see if people

are allowed to see who you are friends with on Facebook, that way I can delete some people off of my friend's lists.

C. Community Issues and Challenges

Have you ever heard of "corporate social responsibility"? Many organizations are applying it to their business plans and their employees are having to agree to this new creed. So what is it? The World Business Council for Sustainable Development defines corporate social responsibility as "the commitment of business to contribute to sustainable development, working with employees, their families, the local community and society at large to improve their quality of life." Now more and more Americans are seeking it.

The majority of U.S. workers believe their employers do have a responsibility to the community, both local and global. "Nearly three quarters (seventy-two percent) of U.S. employees report that they believe their company should help people living in extreme poverty outside of the United States." This survey, conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of Millennium Promise and CareerBuilder.com, placed Africa highest on the list of places most in need of assistance in front of North America by a 30 percent margin.

Because of this movement, the Columbia Public Schools Foundation is finding creative and innovative ways for their volunteers to get involved with charitable efforts. Nearly half of workers (48 percent) report their companies contribute to charities or offer a corporate matching program. Other forms of participation can include, paid volunteer days, organized events and employer-matched contributions.