BUILDING OUR SOCIAL LANDSCAPE IN CYBERSPACE

FOSTERING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN ONLINE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES IN LIBRARY MEDIA EDUCATION

Cynthia Houston, Ph.D., MSLIS
Western Kentucky University
“Effective library media programs are creative, dynamic, enthusiastic, and committed to the development of a community of learners that is centered on the student.

Library media specialists provide the essential link in this program connecting students, teachers, and others with the information resources they need.

The effective library media specialist draws upon a vision for the student-centered library media program that is based on three central ideas: collaboration, leadership, and technology.”

Strategies for Best Practices

- Student-centered, authentic, engaging, and motivating
- Connects the academic program, professional practice and K-12 learning environment
- Develops skills and knowledge in collaboration, leadership and technology
- Best Practices in school library programs mirror best practices in e-learning
Implementing Best Practice in Cyberspace

- **Collaboration** using Facebook: to develop a virtual community of students and alumni for communication and information sharing
- **Leadership** using professional Toolkits: using the online Advocacy Toolkits from professional librarian and technology organizations to engage students in professional advocacy and leadership activities
- **Collaboration and Leadership** using Blogger: to engage students and faculty in academic program improvement initiatives
- **Collaboration and Technology** using Wordpress: to engage students in the development of an online professional resource for 21st century school libraries
facebook

- Online social networking site
- WKU Library Media Education Program Facebook group has 74 members
- Students/Faculty/Alumni share professional information
- LME Program faculty marketing and communication tool
Professional Advocacy Toolkits

-Informational toolkits developed by professional societies to assist school librarians with program advocacy

- AASL
- ALA
- IASL
- ISTE

-Students choose a toolkit and use the information to develop and implement an advocacy plan on a selected issue.

-Students learn about advocacy and engagement and develop skills for developing strategies and taking action on important issues.
Students create entries for digital K-12 resources and review entries of others.

As subscribers, they have growing online source for digital resources.

Fosters interaction with other professionals and exposes students to 21st century information resources.
Google Blogger

- www.blogger.com

- Discussion forum for improving undergraduate minor in WKU Library Media Education

- Fosters a professional community of faculty, students and alumni

- Develops and nurtures an online community of stakeholders

- Widens participation in professional strategic planning
Collaboration, Leadership, Technology

- Foundation of Best Practice across the library profession in physical and virtual settings
  - School library programs and preparation programs
- Freely available Internet social networking tools allow online programs to build a professional community of students, faculty, and alumni
  - Widens community of stakeholders
  - Increases communication and information sharing across the profession