Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose. (See the Interest Networks Leadership Manual for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

Interest Network: Technology

Lead Contact Person: Shea Tanis (Tanis@ku.edu)

Annual Report
For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

Objective 1: Increase membership in Technology Interest Network.
The interest network created a recruitment strategy to bring in new members to the Technology IN from within and outside the organization by participating in interest network activities and meetings and identifying outreach opportunities in conference venues. We also identified accessible modalities for Tech IN members to engage in ongoing communication. We established TechConnect! a monthly virtual meeting where participants could learn about the latest research and news around technology and IDD.

Objective 2: Expand outreach and dissemination of technology.
Through TechConnect! the interest network shared and discussed the latest in technology research. We worked with IN members and co-hosted a national webinar on May 17, 2022, titled Using the WebAIM Million to Inform your Digital Inclusion Efforts which presented research on web accessibility and standards in web accessibility. The Interest Network broadly shared information about the AAIDD Annual Conference and disseminated information about technology-related presentations. Annual funds were used to sponsor an early career professional interested in technology to attend and present at the 2022 AAIDD conference.

Objective 3: Curate a vision of technology research goals.
The Technology Interest Network identified the need for a common template to be created for Interest Networks to establish annual research goals. The leadership met with the Research IN to discuss future initiatives around goal setting. The network has initiated discussions with members to identify the goals to be set at the end of 2022.

Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies
For the coming year (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

Goal: Increase membership engagement in technology-related topics and activities.
Objective 1. Increase membership in Technology Interest Network
- Identify and recruit two new members to serve in the roles of Communications Chair and Secretary for the Interest Network
- Outreach to five new organizational partners to recruit members to the AAIDD Technology IN
- Create a Technology IN Ambassador program from existing members to recruit and outreach to new members

Due July 22, 2022
Objective 2. Expand outreach and dissemination of technology-related research

- Create a resource library of AAIDD published articles on technology and IDD
- Continue to disseminate and discuss research topics and news articles about technology and IDD through TechConnect! meetings
- Educate IN members about AAIDD events and publications and identify the role and potential contributions of Technology IN members and provide opportunities for networking
- Work with IN members to develop and deliver one online seminar for AAIDD membership on a relevant topic to technology and IDD

Objective 3. Advance and publish technology research goals

- Create a series of white papers about promising practices in the applications of technology solutions by and for people with IDD and their families
- Create 1-2 white papers for dissemination on topics relevant to technology and IDD