



TECH AMBASSADORS

Embracing Technology.
Promoting Independence.

Creating the Tech Ambassadors!

Technology for All Virtual Summit

March 16, 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Overview of Tech Ambassadors
 - Personal and program intro
- First Grant Period
 - Meet three Tech Ambassadors
- Second Grant Period
 - Meet two more Tech Ambassadors
- Current Grant Period – panel discussion
- Lessons Learned – panel discussion

First Grant Period – Getting Started



- Awarded the Tech Ambassador Grant in Dec 2019
- Identified Core Team by Feb 2020
 - Courtney Davis, Jeremy Joyce, Heidi Cunningham
- Early planning meetings in Feb and Mar 2020
 - Discussed general philosophy and Job Description
 - Sidelined by COVID in Mar 2020
- Decision to continue grant was made in June 2020

First Grant Period – Hiring



- Job Description was finalized in Jul 2020
- Four positions were posted in Aug 2020
 - [Association of County Boards](#) and [DODD](#) helped promote
 - All 88 Ohio Counties were emailed
 - Personal referrals eventually accounted for all candidates
- Interviews happened in Sep & early Oct 2020
- Offers went out to five people in Nov 2020

First Grant Period – Hiring



- Five Original Tech Ambassadors
 - Robert Shuemak
 - Nathan Turner
 - Chris Cooley
 - Marci Straughter
 - Tanner Huff
- Intros from Robert, Chris and Marci!

First Grant Period – Onboarding



- Team first met together in early Dec 2020
 - Planned a collaborative orientation process
 - Included visits/training from DODD staff and remote support providers
 - Produced the [Tech Ambassador Code](#)
 - Planned event schedule through June 2021
- Infrastructure
 - Website – ohiotechambassadors.org
 - Social media presence – [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
 - [YouTube channel](#)
 - Professional graphic design team assisted with logo and marketing

First Grant Period – Events!



- Held 13 virtual events from Jan to Jun 2021
 - Three events were statewide and the rest were regional
 - Regional events featured a single Tech Ambassador
 - This involved personal visits to each Tech Ambassador from me to record video content for the event and for YouTube!
- Used ASL Interpreters at all meetings
- Used Zoom Webinars as a platform
 - This allowed promoting guests to panelists temporarily to allow them to share their cameras and microphones and speak to our presenters.

Second Grant Period



- Grant was renewed in Aug 2021 for an additional two years
- Changes and updates
 - Developed a form at our website people could use to request Tech Ambassadors to speak or consult with them – <https://ohiotechambassadors.org/request>
 - Prepared for in-person events
 - Recruited, interviewed, hired and onboarded three additional Tech Ambassadors

Second Grant Period – Hiring

- Three Additional Tech Ambassadors
 - Renee Wood
 - Brad Whitmoyer
 - Jen Schlegel
- Nathan Turner moved on to a job with DODD!
- Hired a family member advocate
 - Brittany Joseph
- Tried to hire a provider advocate but didn't find the right person
- Intros from Jen and Brittany!

Second Grant Period – In-Person!



- Preparations
 - Physical signage and brochures printed
 - Arranged for transportation and paid provider staff
 - Paid ASL interpreters to join in-person
 - Tech Demonstration Stations
- COVID still delayed scheduling somewhat
- Attended [Synergy Conference](#) in Oct 2022 as presenters
 - Planned for eight Tech Ambassadors and provider staff
- Gave away an Echo Show 5 at events toward the period's end
- Continued virtual events but based around themes

Current Grant Period



- Previous management couldn't keep pace with growth of program
- Grant was put back out to bid in Jun 2023
- Current grantee is Steve Pelton/[We Thrive Together](#)
- Tech Ambassadors infrastructure was maintained
- Changes/Additions

Lessons Learned – Panel Discussion



- Goal Orientation
 - Original goal was mentorship rather than technical consultation
- Responsible Growth
 - Importance of marketing and promotion
- Accessibility Needs
- Infrastructure
 - Support staff necessary to help arrange and troubleshoot activities