

Community Engagement Report for August 2020

We continue to offer virtual programming both through Facebook and Zoom. The response from Zoom Bingo has been overwhelmingly positive. Each week, more people join and have a great time visiting with friends and playing Bingo together. One of our top priorities is making sure that the people we support continue to have social connectedness and maintain their overall wellness.

The ATSU Community Mentors program will be beginning this fall, and we've worked to promote the program and recruit board members and mentors. In addition to making phone calls and sending emails, we attended a recruitment meeting for ATSU students and hosted an informational live Zoom video for potential mentors & board members. There have been some challenges recruiting mentors due to the pandemic, but the team is working hard and problem solving to make this program very successful.

Planning for the Virtual Community Engagement Conference is well underway! Save the date for October 19-21! The committee has sent out sponsor letters, vendor requests, a call for presentations, and the conference website is taking shape. We've also planned to combine the Creating Community Arts Festival with the conference and have worked out the logistics of converting this event into a virtual art gallery. Registration will be available soon.

As a member of the Supported Decision Making, Social Media Group, Melissa met with the group to discuss setting a consortium email and website so we can set up the media sites. In addition, the group discussed who should be advisors for the sites, and what types of information the sites should offer.

The Reverse Job Fair will now be held online and it has been opened to anyone working with Vocational Rehabilitation or the Missouri Career Center to obtain a job. Job seekers will record a 2 minute video about themselves, their skills, jobs they are seeking, etc. They will then be combined and put into an email to participating employers. The employers will be able to review the job seekers at their own leisure then contact them to move forward with an application, interview, etc. Specific logistics of the event will be available soon.