



How DO-IT Does It

Sheryl Burgstahler, PhD
University of Washington



Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, & Technology

- *Began 1992, grant from National Science Foundation (NSF)*
- *Current NSF projects include AccessSTEM, AccessComputing*
- *DO-IT Scholars now funded by State of Washington*



Goal

To increase the success of individuals with disabilities in post-secondary education & careers (esp. in STEM), using technology as an empowering tool



Preparation

Access

Acceptance



Challenges

- ***Diminished support systems after high school***
- ***Little access to successful role models***
- ***Lack of access to IT that can increase independence, productivity, & participation***
- ***Inadequate self-advocacy skills***
- ***Inadequate accommodations***
- ***Low expectations & other negative attitudes on the part of people with whom they interact***

- National Organization on Disabilities



Evidence-Based Practices

Access to & productive use of IT PLUS:

- ***Self-determination skill-building***
- ***College/career preparation activities***
- ***Programs to bridge between academic levels***
- ***Work-based experiences***
- ***Peer, near-peer, mentor support***
- ***Leadership opportunities, long-term roles***

Combinations are most effective!