Digital Innovations & Barriers: Blended Learning Across the Digital Divide
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Bill Bliss, Language & Communication Workshop

1. An Analog Divide Tale
2. Technology Progress: Devices, Connectivity, and Education
3. WIOA Expectations and Adult English Language Learning
   A. Integrating career/academic readiness standards with basic English instruction: Examples from the Side by Side Plus course
   B. Blended learning basic principles: multiple locations of learning; partial online delivery; student controls time, pace, and place of learning
   C. Gamifying out-of-class practice: informal; self-paced; self-directed/non-linear/flexible; instant feedback; iterative learning from mistakes; scaffolded skills; motivational
4. The Digital Divide
   A. Demographic data
   B. Barriers to adopting home broadband
5. How We Use the Internet
6. Computers vs. Smartphones
   A. Education
   B. Employment
   C. WIOA Digital Literacy -- “to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information”
7. The Importance of Broadband
   A. Limitations on education
   B. Limitations on employment
8. Digital Equity Solutions
   A. Federal initiatives
   B. Non-profit sector initiatives
   C. Private sector initiatives
9. Action Points
   1. Make sound use of technology in instruction.
   2. Leverage low-cost home broadband and devices with ISPs and retailers.
   3. Obtain additional devices via crowdfunding and grants.
   4. Stay aware of available government-supported initiatives.
   5. Lobby for continuation and expansion of government programs (and protest when they are threatened).
   7. Support community organizations expanding Internet access, or start one.
   8. Link to resources such as Internetforallnow.org and the CA Emerging Technology Fund.
   9. Treat digital equity as a social and economic justice issue.

Resource links are posted on the CATESOL conference app, or email: bill.bliss@languageandcommunication.org

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