

## #Role Model Challenge!

I am working on a slide presentation which has two slides in particular talking about the access to information in education and the equal opportunity for employees. I am discouraged, yet not all together shocked that I can't find any images in the creating commons space that provides role models for those of us who are blind, visually disabled, have learning cognitive or print disabilities or who use alternate input devices or communication boards in academic settings or in a professional setting.

I found only one image that slightly represents children using adaptive technology in a classroom setting rather than in isolation in what can be described as a resource centre environment. Many of the other images involve people with blindfolds on or people using wheelchairs despite my search string being "blind students in classroom".



Figure 1 Students with disabilities in a classroom with their technology.

My focus for the presentation is on digital accessibility not access to the built environment.

When I searched for "blind employees" and then "blind workers" because blind employees gave me all kinds of people using white canes in parks and malls, I found only one single image that had someone with a service dog in a professional environment.



Figure 2 Person who is blind seated at a desk in an office with guide dog laying beside the desk.

And the focal point of that image was the service dog, with the person using the service dog well in the background at their desk. So, we are seen as people who bring their pets to work rather than professionals who compete as equals in business and employment.

Here is the “Role Model Challenge!

Those of us who are blind, visually disabled, have learning, cognitive or print disabilities or who use alternate input devices or communication boards must have images that place us as equals in the classroom and in employment.

We need images of teachers who are blind or visually disabled teaching students, not just students with disabilities. We need to see students using their technology with conferencing tools, in a workplace environment participating in meetings or doing work at their desks where the focal point of the images is not their service animal but that they are working.

I challenge the group of contributors involved in the Creative Commons licenses for images to add at least 500 images that give those of us who are blind, visually disabled, have learning, cognitive or print disabilities or who use alternate input devices or communication boards by September 1, 2020 and to add to that with the goal of exceeding 1,000 images in total by December 31, 2020.

I want to be able to search for blind students and computers, digital accessibility, blind employees, students with disabilities or employees with disabilities and see those of us represented in the first rows of search results.

#RoleModelChallenge

Post your contributions!