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Thank you very much for joining me for "Share the Black Crayon - Collaborative Superhero Teams"! I will start with some links. This is where you can view the videos I will discuss: http://www.uniqueasyou.com/courses_presentations.htm

And, the slideshow is available at <http://www.slideshare.net/renneemiko/share-the-black-crayon-collaborative-superhero-teams>

What does the black crayon mean?

It is the most popular color in the crayon box because it is bold, heavy, outlines and grabs attention, so people fight over it.

As educators and advocates, we want to share.
You don't always have to be in charge or bask in the spotlight. Let others lead, educate, or shine on stage.

Do you share the black crayon?

I have been fortunate growing up and while in school.
I was in lots of superhero teams and had examples to reflect on. We had complementary roles to be balance and successful.

For 20 years, I have been a college instructor teaching digital media, and virtual world use for 5 years.
I have worked with nonprofits for 18 years a board member, fundraiser, special event producer, and educator.

I am an artist, geek, advocate of awesomeness. I have been lucky to surrounded by pioneers, innovators, and champions of advancement. All shining stars. Superstars.

How do you share the black crayon?
We live in an expanding universe and there is plenty of room for us all to be stars. When you are willing to share the black crayon, you showcase each others' talents and have different roles to support one another.

Are you a superhero?
Do you have those moments in the classroom or in front of an audience... the Ah Ha... the bliss... the clock stops... You feel a surge of superpowers when you figure how it all connects or when you encourage others to explore more.

A couple of steps how to build Collaborative Superhero Teams:
Initiate opportunities to reveal super powers and weaknesses.

Develop an authentic avatar.
Build inquiry
and impact.
Explore a shared experience.
Create and communicate.
Cultivate respect and mentor.

We want to encourage people to reveal superpowers and weaknesses.
We all have strengths or superpowers. It can be scary to showcase what you are capable of and what you can't do. There is a balance between strengths and weaknesses.
When we reveal these, we can find complementary teammates to fill in gaps and boost the whole.

Do you have someone on your team who is your complement?
Do you have someone who fills in your weaknesses?
It is important to find these folks for our teams.
We need to expose what we can and cannot do.

There are many ways to discover at our superpowers.
Figure out your integrity. This is my version of an alignment chart from D&D.
Have you done role-playing gaming?

What is your alignment?

I am Lawful Good.

It is good to know what everyone's alignment is on your team. They all have specific roles and motives.

There may seem to be some negatives, but there are lots of positives.

Even Lawful Good have negatives, like stubbornness.

Express your passion.

What are you excited about?

My passion and problem is I want to teach all the time.

I am learning to ask people if they want to learn something. Do you guys want me to continue?

Be brilliant! You need to be a star,

but let others be stars too. As I said before, the universe is expanding and there is room for all of us to shine brightly.

We must recognize and reward excellence.

Many superheroes are not happy that there is celebration for stupidity. Let's turn it around.

Let's celebrate superpowers and encourage others to achieve amazing abilities.

I have my students take all kinds of personality tests to find their team roles too.

Do you like those tests?

For the Myers-Briggs type, I am an ENFJ = Teacher Idealist. What are you?

I do personality color tests and color tests to identify color blindness

because those who are colorblind do well at understanding design and contrast. It's a superpower!

Develop an authentic avatar.

I love helping students shop or make custom apparel to express themselves through their avatar.

I encourage them to find their mission as a means to create their avatar's appearance.

You can review my full lecture on Authentic Avatars at <http://www.slideshare.net/renneemiko/authentic-avatar-inspiring-trust-with-your-virtual-identity>

How do you want to engage with the world?

Affect, observe, exchange, or analyze?

Do you want to do or express? Feel or think about things?

All of these factors come into play.

When you define your mission, identity assets, and appearance, you can create your authentic avatar to engage with your team that represents truthfully your possible role, superpowers, and character.

Build inquiry and have an impact. Ask questions. I am interested in motivation. In this photo I am nearly 1, reaching to a shelf to grab a chemistry book.

Both parents are scientists, I was taught to seek facts instead of falling for fairy stories.

They built inquiry into my system and in turn I require it from my students. That can be troublesome to ask lots of questions, but it's how we learn.

To share the black crayon, I welcome guest speakers in my classroom. Sherry was a guest that does documentaries. She told the students how to ask questions in a way that doesn't appear to be interviewing while gaining the information for the story.

How do you establish inquiry? What motivates people? Ask this: What makes you feel mad, glad, sad about yourself, sad?

You get an idea of what influences people and showcase different perspectives.
It helps you build teams and help others.

Are you glad to be here among your supporters today?
You are with those who understand what it's like to be misunderstood as virtual world educators and advocates?

I love being among you all.
We learn, support, and develop solutions together. People can struggle using virtual worlds because it can be enthusiastically exposing and upsettingly isolating at the same time. That is why making friends is vital.

I invite my friends to participate in my classes.
I have virtual office hours in Second Life where my on campus and online students meet. I invite my friends to join us to talk about their work, process, and my students share their work with them.
They ask good questions and learn different perspectives.
Do you invite guests to your classroom, virtual office, or project?

We take field trips and the students get a chance to explore.
It takes time, hand holding, and teaching them if they lose their hair they can get it back.
In my local community, I am grateful that I have support for my work in virtual worlds. They print photos of my avatar in the newspaper, and they recognize me as her!
My college supports me and I train staff and faculty how to use virtual worlds.

We are in this together.
I encourage you to invite some of us to help you bring people in so they understand we are not just pixels.
My friend Draxtor Despres helps showcase how we all are people making things happen. I have taken students to see Gracie Kendal's virtual exhibits and then compared it to photos of her actual studio when I visited her.

I have had Pooky Amsterdam and Petlove Petshop as guests to share the power of teamwork and they invite my students to participate in their projects to experience being on a different team. I am very grateful to all my friends being so generous with their time.

Field trips are a shared experience and they help build a team. Sometimes we have a shared enemy. But, I like to have a shared experience to bring people together.
Because I teach art and multimedia communication, I have students think about how will they work with an audience. They need to know how to deliver a message.

I ask them to think of the various types of gamers. When they come into a space, will they be an achiever, explorer, socializer, or killer?
Their experience and process has to cross RL and SL engagement.

We visited with Scottius Polke as he showed us several of his Second Life gallery installations. Then I shared Scottius' book in class so they could see more of his artwork. He was very influential and he reviewed student work.

We had a field trip to the University of Washington Virtual Museum of Digital Media.
Where they learned to dance and got to be in their first machinima.

With Hypatia Pickens, they explore environments that tell stories not just in text and pictures.
We went into the story, exploring and engaging.

I also take students on physical field trips, like going to the Experience Music Project / Science Fiction Museum to see the Smithsonian "Art of Video Games" exhibit. We seem to have a water theme.
We live two hours west of Seattle and here we are on the ferry to Seattle. We love our canoes!
We go on adventures, invite others to join us, and we don't always stay in the water.

Once you've built the team, create and communicate together.
You have amazing stories to tell that will inspire others. Sometimes people need a nudge or supportive reassurance to express themselves.

One project I created to encourage storytelling was to work with my ComplementCompliment Characters
See website <http://complementcompliment.wordpress.com>
I made these figures and gave them to students to create videos or photos
with a focus on teamwork.

This is one of the videos created by BlackCat about the experience taking my class. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRBeapfOFrc>
Please click on the link to view the video.

Thank you for checking it out. All the students did videos. They are unique and touching.
Some went on adventures. Some taught us or showcased artists.
As I mentioned before, I try to be sure there is a cross over between what we do in RL and SL.
The students wear the same badges inworld and out.
It shows unity between worlds and they are on the same team.

I not only teach, but I learn from my students.
This is a video by Cedrus in Minecraft about teamwork.
Working in Minecraft was hard after being in Second Life, and the students were patient with me. The collaboration included everyone in class and mirrored how the students worked together on several other video projects.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlvL3AD68WY&feature=share&list=UU4uIpCSr0QVIW4MxMK_U5g

It is important to have these successes and continue to cultivate respect, and mentor the next group coming along.
I participated in the first class of the University of Washington Virtual Worlds Program in 2009. I was the mentor for the 2010 and 2011 classes and keep the connections and collaborations going as a Chair of alumni.
It means a lot to continue to encourage people.

Building teams inworld and out is the support system we often need when those don't understand us, and the awesomeness we produce.
Have you found a group of friends that are the amazing team for you?
Are you with them now? Can you can rely on them? Will they care and support you?
You would do the same for them.

I am fortunate to work with the Nonprofit Commons and other nonprofits in Second Life. I can celebrate their efforts.
They are a team of superheroes.
We are always happy to support each other.
When they need people in the foreground or just in the background, we are there.
Mentor those who will come after us and celebrate those who came before us.

Returning to the cycle sharing the black crayon and creating superhero teams.

Be sure to find out your powers and weaknesses, do not being afraid to expose those to find a team for support.

Develop your authentic avatar so people understand your mission, your dreams, and talents.

Build inquiry to find a place we all feel safe to point out the emperor is naked.

Understand what motivates us and have a positive impact with our work.

We want to invite people to share experiences with us. Be inclusive.
At events you may see wallflowers.
Strike up a conversation.
They may be just the person you are looking for.

When you have built your team, create something amazing and share it inworld and out.

While doing that, cultivate respect for what others can do. And, mentor the next group.
Take the hands of newbies and assure them they will find their shoes.

Thank you for the opportunity to share! I want you all to be super!