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Digital Citizenship Summit at University of Saint Joseph October 3

**Issues of Online Reputation, Empathy, Cyberbullying,
Proper Social Media Use**



Digital Citizenship Summit co-founders David Ryan Polgar and Dr. Marialice B.F.X. Curran

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (September 8, 2015) – The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn. will host the Digital Citizenship Summit, a national conference aiming to improve student use of technology with a focus on online interaction including cyberbullying, security threats, online reputation, and issues of social media.

A first-of-its-kind conference, the Summit will take place on Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Bruyette Athenaeum, located on the University's main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut. The topic is of interest to parents, educators, school administrators, and students, as well as industry and organization leaders concerned about the misuse of technology among students — both children and teens. This full-day event includes four sessions of speakers, a panel discussion, and opportunities to network with leaders across the country intending to improve the use of present-day technology. The cost is \$50 (\$15 for students) and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Tickets are available at tickets.usj.edu.

Panelists at the Digital Citizenship Summit include: Dr. Mike Ribble, an international speaker, researcher, and author of the books *Digital Citizenship in Schools* and *Raising a Digital Child*; and Dr. Shelley Prevost, co-founder and CEO of Torch and columnist for *Huffington Post*. Speakers include Janell Burley Hofmann, author of *iRules: What Every Tech Healthy Family Needs to Know About Selfies, Sexting, Gaming and Growing Up*, and Diana Graber, co-founder of CyberWise and founder of Cyber Civics.

“Digital Citizenship” is an umbrella term encompassing one’s role using technology within the realms of ethics, etiquette, rights, and responsibilities. According to [C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health](#) (2015), which surveyed children’s health issues, Internet-safety and sexting rank higher than smoking and tobacco use as health concerns.

“We often hand our students and kids technology and expect them to automatically use it correctly,” says Summit co-founder David Ryan Polgar, a frequent speaker (two-time TEDx) and tech commentator (*Boston Globe*, *Financial Times*, *New York Post*, CNN.com) on ethical uses of technology. “As witnessed from countless examples of tweets gone bad and inappropriate pictures uploaded, as well as online communication lacking empathy, there is a real need for education about the misuse of technology and a forum for real solutions.”

Co-founder Dr. Marialice B.F.X. Curran, Associate Professor of Education at USJ, who teaches courses in digital citizenship and digital literacy, said, “Attending the Digital Citizenship Summit is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of this critical conversation and part of the solution.”

For more information on the Digital Citizenship Summit, visit www.digcitsummit.com. To register, visit tickets.usj.edu.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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