



## **Image Initiative, Inc. Policy on Participant Use of the Internet and Other Media**

The Image Initiative, Inc. appreciates that freedom of expression is a fundamental right. Freedom of expression encompasses the right to freedom of speech and the right to receive information. This *Policy on Participant Use of the Internet and Other Media* has been established to supplement our *Image Initiative Code of Conduct*.

We expect that in using the Internet and other media, both at home and at school, participants will act lawfully. Additionally, we expect that participants will, at all times, act responsibly and exercise good judgment and a high degree of personal ethics, consistent with our Code of Conduct. This is particularly important in regard to information and data that may be placed on the Internet or communicated via other media relating to students, volunteers, mentors and staff in regard to the Image Initiative, Inc. and subsequent programs; the *C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Workshop Series*, *B.U.I.L.D Mentoring Collective* and *Sisters Empowering Sisters* (SES) conference.

Each individual participant must exercise her own discretion and judgment as to whether she creates or participates in an Internet blog, chat room, or social networking site, or whether she uploads any video or other content. The same holds true in regard to a participant's decision to access the Internet to create a personal profile or to comment on any other individual or the program.

We assume that every individual using the Internet knows that the absolute privacy of information and data placed on the Internet and sent electronically can not be guaranteed. Undoubtedly, if a participant fails to act responsibly in that regard the information and content placed on the Internet or communicated via other media can have a seriously harmful effect on others.

While we can not and have no desire to monitor any individual's non-Image Initiative use of the Internet and other communications media, we do have an appropriate interest in ensuring that all individuals associated with the program are treated with respect and dignity at all times (again, consistent with our Code of Conduct). This is a serious responsibility that each participant accepted upon her enrollment in the Image Initiative program. It is a responsibility that participants owe to their peers, volunteers, group leaders, staff members, and panelists.

As all participants are aware, the Image Initiative cares just as much about how students act at non-Image Initiative related events and functions as we do regarding their Image Initiative related conduct. In view of the Image Initiative's expectation that students will adhere to our Code of Conduct and act responsibly at all times, we want to make it clear that the Code of Conduct is applicable to the use of the Internet and other communications media.



Accordingly, the following standards should be adhered to by participants in connection with the use of the Internet and other media and in regard to content placed on the Internet and other media regarding a participant's peers, volunteers, group leaders, staff members, panelists, or the program:

- A. Content may not be pornographic, obscene, or lewd, nor may it contain sexual innuendo or sexually-explicit material
- B. Content may not be potentially or actually defamatory, inflammatory, abusive, threatening, harassing, invasive of privacy, or injurious
- C. Content should be free of racist, sexist, prejudicial, or otherwise objectionable material, including personal attacks against others
- D. Content may not be of a kind that may cause or does result in harm, injury, embarrassment, or disruption to the program
- E. Content may not include personal contact information (i.e., address, telephone) regarding any other person without the prior authorization of that person
- F. No person may access another individual's information or files without permission (unless such information and files have been made available voluntarily)
- G. Content and the use of the Internet and other media may not be in violation of any local, state, or federal law. When deemed appropriate by the Image Initiative, we will notify law enforcement agencies if necessary to protect members of the Internet community
- H. All content must be in compliance with the Image Initiative's Code of Conduct.

Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Image Initiative, up to and including removal from the program. We also rely on all participants to take reasonable steps to ensure that no violation by any of their peers occurs. Our assumption, in establishing this policy, is that the overwhelming majority of students use the Internet and other communications media in an appropriate manner. Moreover, they do so without regard to whether the Image Initiative has established any policy relating to such use. Instead, they understand that freedom of expression carries with it certain important responsibilities that should be adhered to as a matter of personal ethics. Our hope is that we never have to investigate or take action in response to a violation of the above policy.

If any participant has any questions about this policy, she may contact Chevonne Collins at [ccollins@imageinitiative.org](mailto:ccollins@imageinitiative.org)