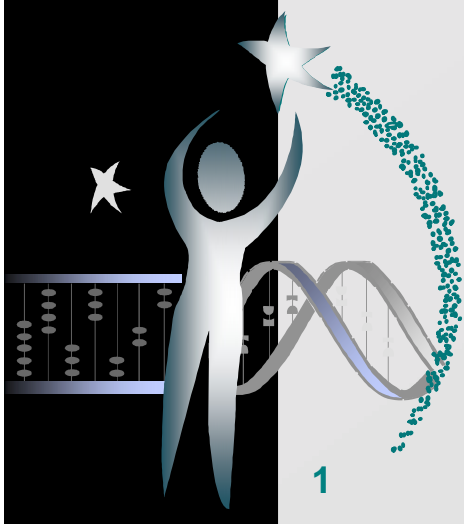


Building Virtual Learning Communities

Joseph R. Harris, Ph.D.

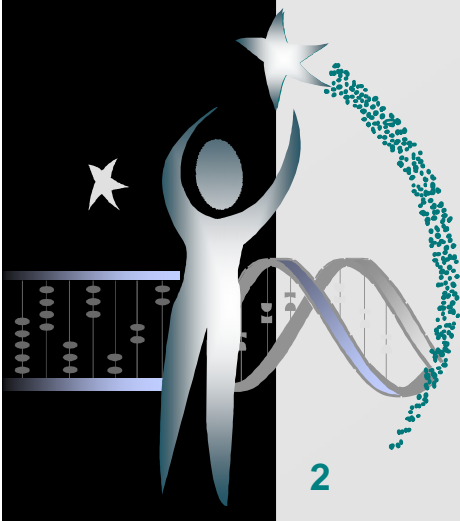
*Technical Assistance Manager
The McKenzie Group
American Institutes for Research*

November 6, 2005



What is a Webinar?

- ★ A “web-based seminar” that uses both Internet and telephone conferencing technologies simultaneously
- ★ A vehicle for real-time meetings and formal or informal presentations
- ★ A common workspace for sharing/editing documents or other materials among geographically separated participants
- ★ An archive for storing and retrieving prior presentations



Systemic Initiatives: A Generation of Support

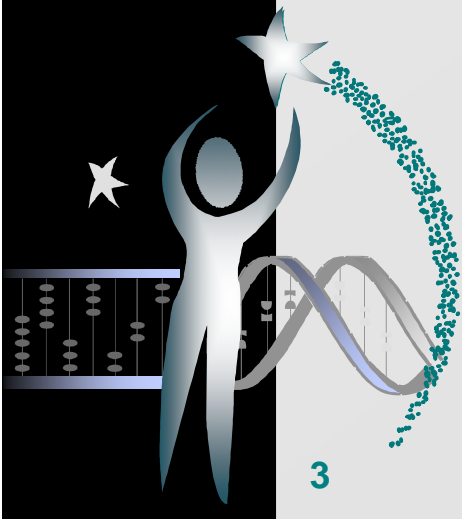
Webinar Components

★ Toll-Free Phone Line

- ❖ Minimum participation level
- ❖ Individual/group participants

★ Internet-based Workspace

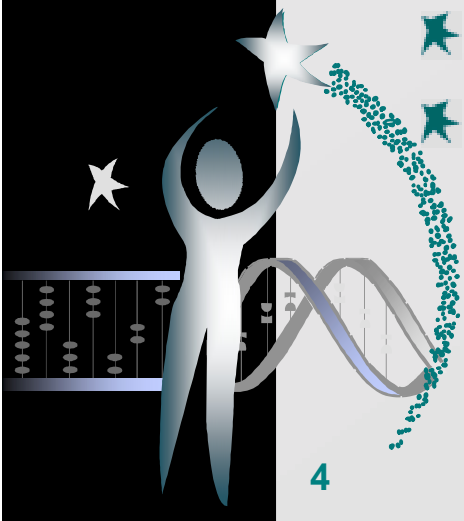
- ❖ Accessed through commercial carriers
- ❖ Available to registered participants
- ❖ “Branded” webpage with events schedule and archive of prior presentations



Systemic Initiatives: A Generation of Support

Webinar Features

- ★ Participant listing area
- ★ Common workspace area
 - ❖ PowerPoint presentations
 - ❖ Document/application sharing
 - ❖ Video presentations
 - ❖ Live web access
- ★ Chat-room and/or Instant Messaging
 - ❖ Sidebar conversations
- ★ Q&A
- ★ Presenter/participant video
 - ❖ requires high-speed access
 - ❖ moderate-to-good quality transmission



Systemic Initiatives: A Generation of Support

How It Works

✦ Prior to the Event

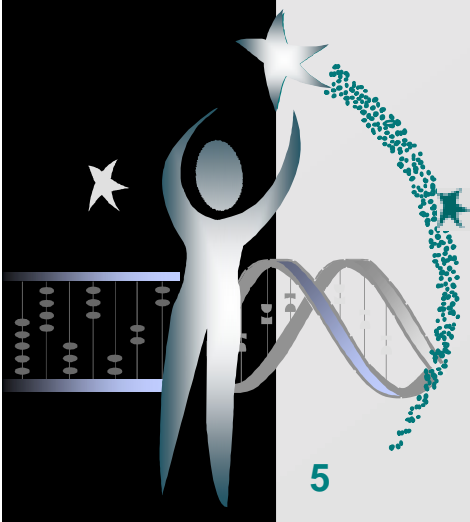
- ❖ Webinar coordinators schedule and announce an informal/formal event
- ❖ Participants pre-register / reserve calendar dates
- ❖ Participants receive email reminders and/or premeeting materials

✦ During the Event

- ❖ Webinar coordinators/presenters upload materials for presentation/loading
- ❖ Participants access website and call toll-free number at scheduled time
- ❖ Presenters/participants engage in meeting or presentation

✦ After the Event

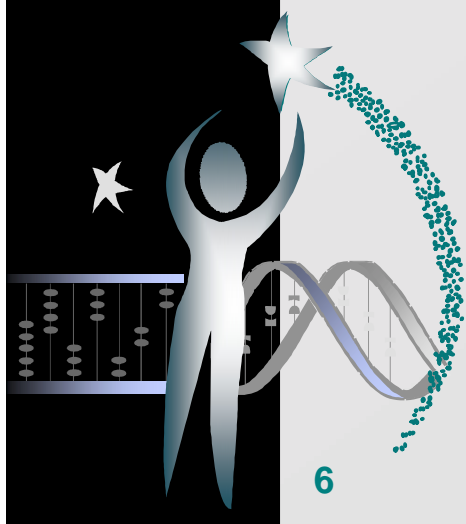
- ❖ Recorded webinar and support materials posted to archival website



Systemic Initiatives: A Generation of Support

Webinar Demonstration Sites

- ★ http://www.macromedia.com/software/breeze/productinfo/meeting/experience/index_mm.html
- ★ <http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/default.asp>
- ★ https://tapartnership.on.raindance.com/co_nfmgr/



Next Steps

- ✦ Completion of interest/feedback survey (today)
- ✦ Redesign/update of the SI website (www.systemicinitiatives.net) (Nov/Dec)
- ✦ Technology and user field-tests with each participating site (Nov/Dec)
- ✦ Publication/dissemination of proposed calendar of events (Dec - Jan)
- ✦ Implementation of webinars (Jan)

