

AT KEY Newsletter
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The second Assistive Technology Leadership Training Institute took place in Medora the last week of September 2001. Twenty-five enthusiastic and committed participants expanded their understanding of AT issues. While together, they developed a network of support among other participants, trainers, and North Dakota AT leaders. They all developed their initial AT idea into a working plan for an AT project within their place of work or community. These working plans will be implemented throughout North Dakota in the coming year.

The beautiful Medora setting provided an ideal atmosphere for everyone to focus on an intense agenda, as well as, opportunities for fun and relaxation. Speakers were recruited from New York, Colorado, and North Dakota. Topics included laws and regulations governing AT, principles of best practices for AT, leadership skills, hands on experiences with AT devices, and a discussion of AT resources. A panel of AT users described the impact of AT on their lives. Another panel, made up of ND agency directors, explained how state agencies fulfill their AT responsibilities.

The participants represent all geographic regions of the state. They work in the fields of vocational rehabilitation, legal assistance, early childhood, aging, health, special education, higher education, developmental disabilities, and advocacy. They brought a project idea with them that they wanted to see implemented in their community or place of work. They listened, interacted, participated in hands on experiences and then integrated that information within their project plans. They each had well defined goals and action steps when they left Medora.

The culmination of their individual projects will have a significant impact on AT service delivery in North Dakota. Projects will impact entities as they develop comprehensive AT plans, adopt assessment protocols, increase access to AT devices for the people they serve, increase awareness of AT options amongst employers, or train others on the availability and potential of AT devices and services. These projects will be listed on the IPAT website www.ndipat.org in the near future. Please check them out, see what is happening in your region or interest area, and consider getting involved.

The event was sponsored by Partnerships for Assistive Technology, PAT, whose members represent over 20 private and public entities located throughout the state of North Dakota. They recognize that assistive

technology has the potential to positively impact every individual with a disability.

Tips on Built-in Computer Accessibility

When you use your computer, is the screen hard to read? Are multi-key commands difficult to execute? Is the mouse cumbersome to use? Do you type-unwanted characters? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, read on to learn about the various accessibility features that are built into the Windows operating system.

Screen hard to read? Use the Magnifier program in Windows98 or higher; go to Start, Programs, Accessories, Accessibility, and double-click on Magnifier. The magnifier will allow you to increase the screen resolution from a level of 1 through a level 9. Additional options that may make your screen easier to read that are also included with this accessibility feature include inverting colors (white letters on a black background) and changing contrast.

Multi-key commands difficult? Use the StickyKeys feature. It allows you to activate multi-key commands (such as Control/Alt/Delete) by pressing keys one at a time rather than simultaneously. To turn StickyKeys on, go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, double click on Accessibility Options, select the Keyboard tab under Accessibility Properties and select the Use StickyKeys check box.

Is using the mouse cumbersome? Use the MouseKeys feature. It allows you to move the cursor and click, double click, and drag objects with the numeric keypad rather than the mouse. To turn MouseKeys on, go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, double click on the Accessibility Options, select the Mouse tab under Accessibility Properties and select the Use MouseKeys check box.

Tired of typing unwanted characters? Use the FilterKeys feature. It helps prevent you from typing unwanted characters by telling the computer to ignore keys unless they are held for a specified time. To turn FilterKeys on, go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, double click on the Accessibility Options, select the Keyboard tab under Accessibility Properties and select Use FilterKeys check box.

Grant \$\$\$ Available

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation has made applications available for the 2001 Bert Warshaw Memorial Grant. Grants of up to \$1,000 per selected applicant will be awarded to individuals in the United States who are at least 18 years old and have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The

funds are to be used for the purchase of items or services that will improve the recipient's quality of life.

Grant applications are available at the foundation's Website www.msfocus.org or by telephoning the foundation's toll-free Program Services Department 1-888-MSFOCUS.

711 Implemented Nationwide for TRS

Access to telecommunications services has been significantly improved for the millions of Americans with hearing and speech disabilities, and for the millions of others who communicate with them. Alternative phone-users across the country, as of October 1, 2001, will be able to use the same three-digit number 711 to reach all Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The need to remember multiple TRS numbers is over; just dial 711 anywhere in the United States and converse away.



Video Giveaway!

A 45-minute video is yours for the asking. If an overview of assistive technology specific to personal computer use by individuals with disabilities is of interest to you, call Connie 1-800-265-IPAT and request a copy of Enable today. The video was developed by the Microsoft Corporation and has closed captioned and descriptive video versions all on the same tape.

Consumer Connection

Still Reading, Reading, Reading
Adapted from Beulah Beacon articles
by Karlene Hill

People so often take everyday activities for granted. As we pick up a book we've waited weeks to read, do we ever wonder what it would be like if we couldn't turn the pages? Avid reader Bryan Karges, a resident of Knife River Care Center (KRCC), found out how devastating losing the ability to turn pages was and the impact it had on his freedom to read in his own time, and in his own voice.

Bryan was born with cerebral palsy, which made everyday motor tasks challenging. However, his love of reading prompted him to figure out a way to turn the pages of books and magazines while sitting on the floor.

Unfortunately, following a necessary hip surgery, he was no longer able to sit on the floor, and thus lost his page turning ability. In an attempt to help him, Bryan's family located the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) and discovered they had an automatic page-turner available for loan through their equipment loan library. The loan was set-up and the trial period was a resounding success. Bryan was back reading and loving every minute spent with his favorite authors. There was only one problem, the page-turner was on loan and would need to be returned.

A story ran in the Beulah Beacon featuring Bryan and his success using the loaned page-turning device. A line or two identified the need for funding in order to purchase this device. After reading the article, Lauren Donovan of Hazen opened an account at the bank for Bryan's page-turner, and told people it was available if they would like to donate. Within six weeks the money was raised. Carey Van Pelt of the KRCC, ordered the Swedish made page-turner and the wait began. The "machine" arrived in March and Bryan has been reading, reading, reading ever since.

Funding News

Know Your Audience When Writing AT Funding Requests

First in a Series

There are four main types of AT funding sources: medical, educational, vocational, and alternative funding avenues (i.e. organizations, foundations, service clubs). When writing funding requests for assistive technology (AT) one must match the AT need to the purpose of the identified funding source. One must also clarify for the reader how the disability impacts the overall functioning of the person, which results in the need for AT.

Consider this excerpt from a funding request for a power wheelchair and new seating system submitted to Medicaid for a man with cerebral palsy. What might be difficult for the reader to understand?

'Steve, age 34, has a diagnosis of CP resulting from the TBI caused by an MVA when he was eight. He has a secondary diagnosis of scoliosis. He has used a manual chair all his life. He can no longer use his current chair because the seating system needs to be completely replaced. If Steve had a power chair, it would be easier for him to ambulate.'

This excerpt presents several difficulties for the reader. Did the writer establish the AT need as a medical necessity? Does the reader know why Steve requires a power wheelchair and new seating system to address his

medical problems? Does the reader know what CP, TBI, and MVA all stand for and how they impact Steve's abilities? When the therapist uses the term " chair, " does the reader know she's referring to a wheelchair? Is the writer asking for a new manual wheelchair, a seating system, or both?

The following revised excerpt gives the reader a clearer picture of Steve, his medical needs and the AT requested to address them, which is more likely to result in an approval for Medicaid funding:

'Steve, age 34, is in need of a power wheelchair and a new seating system. He is an individual with the diagnosis of cerebral palsy, secondary to a traumatic brain injury, which he sustained in a motor vehicle accident at age eight. Steve has used a manual wheelchair for many years, but it no longer meets his medical needs. He has a secondary diagnosis of scoliosis, which makes it physically impossible for him to use his arms to push a manual wheelchair. Steve also needs a new seating system. His present system does not meet his medical needs since his scoliosis has worsened. Also, his current system will not fit in a power wheelchair.'

Equipment Spotlight

Aladdin Rainbow - CCTV

Having trouble reading your mail, seeing to write, or enjoying photographs? The IPAT Equipment Loan Library may have a solution for you, a video magnifier that uses closed circuit television technology to enlarge written or photographic images.

[Aladdin Rainbow.](#)

This one-piece color CCTV features a 14-inch diagonal screen, and four simple to use controls: zoom lens to magnify up to 25 times; fine focus control; on/off switch, and six picture controls for selection of: white letters on black background; amber letters on black, green letters on black, yellow letters on blue, full-color photo mode display and high-contrast, full-color display. To re-open your world of reading, writing, and independence, experience a CCTV and put vision back in your everyday activities.



Call the IPAT Equipment Loan Library to set up a no-cost 6-week trial use, 1-800-421-1181; or contact Telesensory, Inc., 1-800-804-8004 to purchase an Aladdin Rainbow, approximate price \$2995.

CCTV's available for use in public places in ND

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Bismarck	Veterans Memorial Library
Hillsboro	Hillsboro Library
Bottineau	Tri-County Senior Services
Kenmare	Senior Center
Carrington	Foster County Sr. Center
Langdon	Langdon Library
Carson	Senior Center
Linton	Linton Library
Crosby	Divide County Library
Mandan	Public Library
Devils Lake	Senior center
Minot	Minot Public Library
Dickinson	Dickinson Public Library
Valley City	Barnes Sr. Center
Ellendale	Prince of Peace Care Cnt
New Town	Lakeside Sr. Center
Fargo	Fargo Public Library
Rugby	Heart of Amer. Lib.
Grand Forks	GF Public Library
Wahpeton	Campus Library
Harvey	Harvey Sr. Center
Walhalla	Senior Center
Hazen	Senior Cente
Watford City	County Library
Hettinger	Court House
West Fargo	Public Library
Williston	Community Library